



SPEECHES

delivered by

HIS EXCELLENCY

The Right Hon'ble

SIR JOHN ANDERSON, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.I.E.

Governor of Bengal

during

1936-37

RAJBHAVAN



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Speeches delivered by His Excellency Sir John Anderson during 1936-37.

His Excellency's Speech at the opening of the New Out-Patient Department of the Mayo Hospital, Calcutta, on 1st April 1936.

SIR HAROLD DERBYSHIRE AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives me much pleasure to be present on this important and, I may say, historic occasion. As you have heard from Sir Harold Derbyshire, the Mayo Hospital has a history behind it a little older than the Permanent Settlement of Bengal, but—I hasten to add—entirely free from controversy. Its annual reports bear the simple but proud inscription—“Founded 1792”—: it was established by none other than that Marquis of Cornwallis whose name loomed so large in the early history of this Province..

It bears the name of a famous Viceroy and many distinguished men have been associated with its development. You, Sir Harold, are carrying on a historic tradition in your association with this Hospital as Chairman of its Board of Governors. As far back as 1873 your predecessor, Sir Richard Couch, addressed the then Viceroy on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the main block of this building.

The list of endowments of this hospital is a long record of the liberality of wealthy and distinguished

Indian families in Calcutta, one of whom I am glad to see represented here to-day in the person of Maharaja Sir Pradyot Kumar Tagore Bahadur, whose family for generations have taken a munificent and active interest in the well-being of this Institution.

The endowments that were the fruit of liberal bequests by his and many other distinguished families serve to this day to provide the hospital with more than a third of its income. Its importance is fitly recognised by considerable contributions from Government and the Corporation of Calcutta; the appreciation of its services by the public is reflected in its subscription list, where the names of many of its old benefactors still appear side by side with those of numerous Indian and European commercial and trading firms.

The building which I am to open to-day is a fresh demonstration of the progressiveness of this veteran institution. The figures for the Out-Patient Department that the Chief Justice has quoted, shew that nearly 33,900 new cases were treated in the last year and at the main hospital alone; these are in addition to cases treated at the outlying dispensaries and the figures speak for themselves as to the work that the hospital is doing. I note with pleasure that these figures include some 3,500 new eye cases, a branch of work in which so much can be done and needs doing in India by way of prevention and timely remedy.

The scheme that has now been brought to fulfilment has three outstanding virtues—careful planning, adequate financing and, once it was decided to put it into effect, speedy execution. I

compliment the designers, and the Governors upon their selection of the design. I still look forward to seeing the inside of the Out-Patient Department and its interior arrangements which I am told will be modern and complete: but from the brief outward view that I have already had it is clear that you have erected buildings worthy both of the site and of the traditions of the hospital.

I would like to associate myself with your expression of thanks to Lieut.-Colonel Kirwan and his staff whose energy and enthusiasm have contributed so much to the fulfilment of your plans. And finally may I thank you, the Chairman and Governors, for the honour you have done me in associating my name for the future with so signal an achievement for the relief of suffering and sickness in this city.

***His Excellency's Speech on the occasion
of investing His Highness the Maharaja
of Cooch Behar with ruling powers on
6th April 1936.***

MAHARAJA JAGADDIPENDRA NARAYAN BHUP
BAHADUR,

I am present here to-day, on behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, to invest Your Highness with ruling powers and to transfer formally to Your Highness' personal rule the State of Cooch Behar, which, since 1922, during your minority, has been under the control of a Council of Regency presided over by Your Highness' Mother.

Your Highness is the twenty-third Maharaja of a dynasty which for four hundred years has ruled the territories you now possess and which in the 16th century, in the person of the famous Maharaja Nar Narayan, extended the bounds of the ancient Kingdom of Kamarupa to include for a time wide tracts of what is now the Province of Assam.

In 1773 when the State had lost its wider territories and was hard pressed by enemies on its borders a treaty of protection was concluded between Your Highness' ancestor, Maharaja Dharendra Narayan and the Honourable East India Company and since that date the closest relationships have subsisted between the State and the Paramount Power in India. From time to time during the last century the Paramount Power intervened directly in the administration of the State—especially during those periods of minority

which were unfortunately frequent—but such interventions were designed to be both beneficial to the State and of service to its rulers.

Coming to more recent times, it is fitting on this occasion to refer to Your Highness' grandfather, Colonel His Highness Maharaja Sir Nripendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty, who came to the gaddi in 1863, was installed in 1883 and ruled altogether for a period of 48 years, until his death in 1911. I have referred to Your Highness' grandfather because on this solemn occasion, when the administration of the State and the happiness and prosperity of nearly 600,000 people are about to be confided to your care, I feel that I cannot do better than to adjure you to follow in his footsteps. Taking over upon his accession a State in which the foundations of a sound administration had been laid by an able and conscientious Regent, your grandfather declared from the outset an enlightened and progressive policy. During his rule, Cooch Behar developed from a comparatively primitive State into one which could hold its own with any State in India—modern, highly organised and progressive. The esteem in which your grandfather was held by Her Majesty Queen Victoria was signalised by the conferment on him of the dignity of Knight Grant Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, and a still greater mark of personal favour was conferred when he was appointed an Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty King Edward VII.

Your Highness' father Maharaja Sir Jitendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, K.C.S.I., unfortunately enjoyed but a brief reign of nine years in succession to the still shorter reign of his brother, Maharaja Raj Rajendra Narayan. Your Highness' father, however, pursued the progressive policy that his father had initiated and developed and showed the same profound affection for his people and interest in their welfare as his father had shewn. Your father's charm of manner, unfailing courtesy and engaging personality are, I know, still remembered by those who had the privilege of his friendship. I feel sure that Your Highness will uphold the fine traditions of your family and will pursue the same enlightened and progressive policy as your father and grandfather.

I need not remind Your Highness that the great position which you are called upon to occupy is one which carries with it great responsibilities and immense scope for beneficent activity.

Your Highness is fortunate in that during your minority the affairs of the State have been in the competent hands of Her Highness the Maharani Regent and the Regency Council. In common with those of Bengal, the revenues of the State have been hard-hit by the fall in the price of agricultural products which set in with the economic crisis of 1931. Cooch Behar is pre-eminently an agricultural country and in consequence has felt the effects of the economic depression more severely perhaps than other States or Provinces, so that the gross revenue of the State which amounted to Rs. 41 lakhs in 1929-30 fell to less than Rs. 25 lakhs in 1933-34.

It redounds greatly to the credit of Your Highness' mother and the Regency Council that, during the period of their administration, the outstanding debt of more than thirty lakhs was paid off and, at the same time, many schemes for the improvement of the State were carried out.

The five years before 1930 saw the establishment of waterworks and electric installation, the opening of the Sunity Academy for Girls and the erection and improvement of many State buildings; and at the end of that period a general overhaul of the State police force together with improvements to the police buildings was taken in hand.

Although there is ground for qualified optimism that better times are returning, Your Highness will have many demands upon your purse and careful economy will be necessary for some years to come. I trust that you will find it possible, while exercising that economy, to remember the needs of your subjects in the rural areas no less than in the town of Cooch Behar and to do what lies in your power to improve the communications and the supply of water that mean so much to the countryside.

I would also impress upon Your Highness the desirability of building up a reserve fund from which unforeseen expenditure may be met.

Your Highness is taking over the administration of this important State at a time when great changes in the Government of India are about to take place. The vision of a more united India, in the administration of which the Princes and Peoples of Indian States would have a voice, was

placed before the Round Table Conference in England, and has since taken practical shape in those portions of the Government of India Act which relate to the Federation of India. The old order is changing and the role of an Indian Prince in the future is likely to be enlarged beyond his functions as the Ruler of a State. His influence may be felt in the counsels of the Indian Empire.

Your Highness has had the advantages of the best education which England can offer and with the opportunities now before you to gain experience in practical administration, it lies in your hands to equip yourself to take a prominent part in the new era which is dawning on India. I am also personally happy to know that you have the same love for, and skill in manly sports that your family have always shown.

I commend to your hands this State in the confident knowledge that Your Highness will do your utmost to promote the happiness and prosperity of the people who are to-day placed under your direct care.

I can assure Your Highness that if, at any time, you desire my advice or help, they will be readily forthcoming.

I wish Your Highness the best of health and happiness and a long and successful reign.

***His Excellency's Speech at the State
Banquet at Cooch Behar on 6th April
1936.***

YOUR HIGHNESS,

I thank you for the generous terms in which you have proposed this toast and I am grateful to the company at large for the cordial manner in which they have received it.

I have been happy to come here not only to perform the historic ceremony in which we took part this morning, but also to see your State, to witness the demonstrations of the loyalty of your people, and, last but by no means least, to enjoy the hospitality for which your princely house is so justly famed.

I should be more than human were I not gratified by the kind things you have said regarding me personally and my work in the sphere of administration; you have been good enough to recall with an aptitude that I appreciate something that I said some four years ago regarding the art of administration. I say advisedly that I appreciate your selection of this quotation because the speech to which you refer was an after-dinner speech, and it is not always that post-prandial utterances can be recalled after a lapse of years without a feeling of trepidation. In this case at any rate I am happy to find that I can still adhere to what I said then. I still assert that there is such a thing as an art of administration—in fact I am prepared to go further and say that there is an art of Government, an art which I might describe as

a blend of the wisdom of Princes and the skill of administrators.

You yourself, though young in years, are heir to the traditions of a dynasty which for four centuries has exercised a rule interrupted only by the accidents of minority: both by birth and upbringing you have, I believe, been endowed with the outlook of a Ruler of men. I, for my part, am proud to have been trained during many years of public service in those traditions of administration that have given to England, and through England to no small part of the world, an ordered continuity in the development of the life of the State no matter what changes may have taken place in its political organisation. In the course of years it has fallen to me to see not a little of the workings of Governments and I have learnt that political wisdom and sound and diligent administration must go hand in hand for the true welfare of the body politic. You yourself have testified to the value you set upon the services of loyal and devoted officials in the State of Cooch Behar and I commend to you the importance of preserving their efficiency and integrity. In the person of the adviser whom the paramount power has undertaken to accredit to you, you will find not only a trained administrator but, I trust, a valued friend and helper. For my part let me assure you that anything I can do by way of advice or help within my capacity will be freely and gladly placed at your disposal. In the long and happy rule that we all fervently wish you, I trust it will be your fortune both to develop the princely tradition that has been handed down to you, and to acquire for yourself that

experience and skill in the art of administration that is essential for the welfare of ruler and subject alike.

Looking back to the days when I was of your age—days unfortunately now in the distant past—I can recall that when one came into contact with men of mature years and eminent position, they seemed to be surrounded by a halo of distinction and importance. I do not know whether it still seems the same to those who are young, but to my eyes at any rate things seem to have changed and the halo now rests not upon the head of the older generation but upon the head of youth with life and opportunity opening before it. I cannot help thinking how great are the opportunities before you and how much they would be envied by so many of your contemporaries among the youth of the western world. To guide the destinies of your own people, to lead them in the paths of peace and prosperity—freed from the menace of neighbours covetous enough to be hostile or weak enough to be coveted—and finally to aspire to play an honoured part in the future polity of the Indian Empire,—such is the vista that opens out before you. You have a task in front of you long enough for a life-time but not too long for one life-time to witness achievement, large enough to be worthy of your energies but not so large as to overwhelm them. I wish you the fullest measure of success and happiness in discharging it.

May I say how glad I am that you have already begun in your short time in Cooch Behar to take a real and personal interest in the pursuits of the younger generation among your people—in the

organisation of their sports and in teaching them by your personal example to play the game and play it well.

If in the time that you can spare from your more serious responsibilities you can by such means encourage a spirit of cheerfulness, sportsmanship and manliness among the youth of Cooch Behar, you will be adding yet another claim to their loyalty, affection and respect.

Your Highness, I cannot close without some reference to Her Highness the Maharani, who has watched over your upbringing and presided over the affairs of your State for these sixteen years—a time during which the State, while carrying out improvements to its amenities has avoided encumbering the future with the burden of recurring commitments. I wish her all the happiness that will come with the knowledge that the State has passed into worthy hands and that its prosperity and dignity are in safe keeping.

Gentlemen, I ask you to drink the health of His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar and to join with me in wishing him a long, happy and prosperous rule.

His Excellency's Speech at the Jackson Shield Competition held at Darjeeling on 23rd May 1936.

SCOUTERS, SCOUTS AND CUBS,

I am very glad to welcome you to Darjeeling on the first occasion on which the Jackson Shield Competition has been held here.

I have a great affection for the hills myself and am happy to know that the innovation of holding the competition here has given to many of you the chance of making a first acquaintance with this part of the country.

I am afraid the weather at this season is always uncertain and those in charge of your programme have had to be ready to meet emergencies. I am glad they have been able to do so and that in the outdoor events the prospect of having to take refuge from an occasional shower has not damped the keenness of the competitors.

I have to congratulate the First Calcutta Wellesley open troop on winning the Jackson Shield and Sonatola Bogra the runners up. The performance of the Bogra troop is particularly creditable as the troop was formed less than a year ago. There has been keen competition for the Ambulance Shield, the gift of Mr. Hemanta Kumar Chaudhuri, which is awarded for the first time this year to the First Calcutta troop.

I realise that there has been a great deal of hard work put into the preparation for these events and a great deal of keenness in the District Competitions

that have preceded them. I hope that the sense of comradeship that these meetings produce will be kept alive when you go back to settle down again to your regular work of scouting and that the experience gained by those who have competed will be spread through the troops as a whole.

Some of you who have come up to these hills for the first time might well feel that you have come into a different country, but I believe that the warmth of the welcome that I know you have received from the Darjeeling Scouts has made you feel at home and left you in no doubt as to the reality of the brotherhood to which you belong.

A party of your big brothers, the Rovers, together with a number of British soldiers of the Devon Regiment is on its way back from a real camping expedition around the frontier of Nepal and the Darjeeling forests that you would have been able to see over yonder if it were less misty, and we shall look forward to seeing them back in a few days. That is not the kind of trip that I would commend for Scouts of your years at this season, but, weather permitting, those of you who wish to undertake it will have the chance of two days good hike on your way down to the plains.

I hope you will have thoroughly enjoyed your visit in spite of the weather and will go back fitter and happier for your adventures to tell the others whom you have left behind how good it is to be a Scout and to be picked to compete in the Jackson Shield Competition.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the "Anderson Khal" at Brahman-
baria on 11th July 1936.***

MEMBERS OF THE BRAHMANBARIA CO-OPERATIVE
RURAL RECONSTRUCTION SOCIETY AND GENTLEMEN,

It is not the usual practice of the Governor of this province to visit subdivisional headquarters and in fact the time at his disposal would not allow of such a practice being established. Nor perhaps is the reopening of the Kurulia Khal, considered merely in terms of length, depth and breadth, an irrigation project of such magnitude as would normally call for a special visit from the head of the province—however great its importance to the locality. But in this instance there are features that lift your achievement out of the sphere of local activity and give it an importance to the Province as a whole.

Practically the whole of the earthwork in the re-excavation of the Kurulia Khal including the making of a road along one of its banks has been done by voluntary labour: over a length of some 3 miles some 74 lakhs of cubic feet of earth have been excavated voluntarily by people of all classes unaccustomed to doing work of this kind, and coming from far and near. The spirit has caught on in other parts of the subdivision and in other districts also people are coming forward to emulate your example. It is for that reason that I have come here to-day.

To my mind the manner in which you have accomplished this work represents one of the

greatest advances that I can conceive in the life of rural Bengal and sets an example which, if properly followed up, may have far-reaching consequences to the wealth and happiness of the people of this province. It has brought out into the open the wealth that lies concealed in energy so long dissipated and lacking in co-ordination.

Wealth does not consist of money. Money is but its symbol. Its real material lies hidden in earth and sun, water and air—in the uncontrolled forces of nature and in the physical, mental and spiritual activity of mankind. Such wealth lies locked up in the treasury of nature and man possesses two keys that can unlock it—those keys are intellect and character. It needs vision to see the possibilities, foresight and patience to work out the details: it needs character to provide both the leadership, and the stamina that is needed to get down to hard work and carry it through in spite of obstacles. In carrying through this work you have shown that rural Bengal possesses these qualities—that they are only waiting for an outlet and that given the vision and leadership there is wealth lying ready to hand.

For a work of this kind is wealth—wealth that can make the whole country richer and no one poorer. Nearly three years ago I attempted in a speech in Calcutta to review some of the economic problems of Bengal; I spoke of the necessity of a sustained effort to solve the problems of rural economy in the province. Much has been said both before and since then and much has been written about the possibilities of economic planning, about the necessity for a rise in price of crops, about the

need of more ready money. I do not deny that there is much to be done by economic planning under whatever name you choose to call it. I do not deny that the world at large is suffering from low prices of crops and staple products; but we cannot sit with our hands folded waiting for the time when sanity will return to the economic world and the prices of products will rise. Nor can we be misled by easy talk about cheap money. Money, as I have already said, is not wealth; it may oil the economic machine but it will not provide it with fuel. Wealth must be looked for in productive energy wisely directed.

In that same speech three years ago I ventured to say—"this province is not poor either in natural resources or in man power: but there must, I feel, be some maladjustment somewhere in a system which keeps a vast agricultural population groaning under a load of debt, eking out a narrow and penurious existence and yet, in most districts, lacking useful occupation for many months of the year."

As regards the problem of debt and as regards other methods of improving what I may call the monetary aspect of rural economy in the province my Government and I may claim not to have been idle within the practical limits of the problem. But I am glad to know that here in Brahmanbaria, and I believe elsewhere also, men of vision and leadership have given practical demonstration of the manner in which the problem can be attacked from another side by the development of man power usefully applied. I repeat what I have said previously about a vicious circle. Rural Bengal in

too many places is suffering from a vicious circle—a deteriorated countryside, ill-health, lethargy and poverty.

You have shown one point at which the circle can be broken. You have understood a lesson that is at once very simple and very hard to learn in practice. When men are up against obstacles, when energy has been sapped and no signs of help are forthcoming from outside, then is the time for men to stand up and help themselves. In giving this striking demonstration you have rendered good service to the province as a whole. I am grateful to you for doing it and happy to have my name associated with it.

I have been impressed also with the stimulating catalogue of your activities disclosed by the address that you have just read. It is an impressive list ranging from the clearance of water hyacinth to the propagation of improved crops and the establishment of a circulating library: it testifies to life-giving activity in every sphere of rural development. Time does not permit of my replying in detail on the questions you have raised but you may rest assured that your address has given food for thought and that the ideas in which it is rich will be given the fullest consideration. I should, however, say something as regards your proposals for broadcasting: this is a matter that involves both scientific and administrative problems. The former are at present under expert consideration and the latter are receiving the attention not only of this Government but also of the Government of India with whom the whole subject will shortly be discussed. Remembering

the range and importance of the subject you will not, I hope, be discouraged if you should find that it takes time to come to a decision as to the schemes to be adopted.

And now, though I have no wish to cast even the smallest of clouds over this happy occasion, I have to utter a word of warning. I have said productive energy creates wealth, but it creates wealth only so long as it is controlled and co-ordinated. In dealing with rivers and khals in Bengal you are dealing with natural forces which it is not always possible for the layman to understand: an alteration of the countryside, even though it may be an improvement, may involve damage to other interests—damage that has got to be paid for. In the present instance I am glad to say there is little apprehension of the waters of this khal getting out of control and having unforeseen effects in other places; but you have been faced with the necessity of paying compensation to individuals whose lands have been absorbed: moreover the reopening of the khal has required immediate measures for the protection of the railway bridge and, if the khal is to be of service, subsequent alterations to the bridge will be essential. I am assured that the expense involved by these necessities is specific and limited: but we are all aware that estimates are liable to be exceeded and I trust in this instance that will not be the case. It sometimes happens that a person whose land is affected makes an exorbitant claim. As regards that I can only say that any person who made an unfair claim or showed an unreasonable or selfish attitude with a desire to make personal profit out of an undertaking such as this—

any person, I say, who took up that attitude would be justly deserving of the censure of the whole community. As regards the bridge we must hope that the estimate prepared by experts will not prove to be deficient when the work comes to be completed.

It is estimated that the bridge work will cost 32,742 rupees and the compensation for land 9,000 rupees: out of this sum the District Board will be prepared to pay 9,742 rupees in addition to 2,000 rupees spent on earthwork of a technical nature. This leaves 32,000 rupees to be found by Government, against a sum of 14,000 rupees only which was originally made available for schemes of this nature in this area. In fact Government have decided to find the extra 18,000 rupees but I am bound to say that you are fortunate in this instance in that you have found Government both willing and able by means of re-adjustments to come forward and help to overcome the unforeseen difficulties. I should have been very sorry had they not been able to do so, because I think that the unique effort that you have made has deserved this recognition. At the same time, both for your own benefit and for that of other districts in the future, I should be failing in my duty if I did not make it clear that Government will not as a matter of course be in a position to solve such difficulties by undertaking commitments incurred without their prior knowledge and consent. I must also stress the point that in dealing with irrigation or drainage schemes the consequences of action without the best technical advice are apt to be extremely serious, and I would impress upon you

and upon all others engaged in the work of rural uplift in the districts the necessity of first obtaining competent advice from the responsible department of Government. I know that in such matters Government seems to move slowly and it may well be that to do justice to the rising spirit and enterprise of the countryside Government itself may be obliged both to strengthen its technical resources and to expedite its processes. Your legislators of the future may have every justification in putting pressure upon future Ministries with this end in view, but I trust that those who are responsible for leadership of the countryside will bear in mind the necessity not merely for inspiring effort but for directing it with forethought and prudence.

Do not think, however, that the existence of difficulties detracts from the value or the potentialities of co-ordinated voluntary work. There are plenty of projects of this kind that can be carried out safely and without great expenditure of actual money. Moreover the methods you have adopted here can be applied in other directions to change the face of Bengal: such methods are already fighting water hyacinth: the same methods can clear jungles, clean up insanitary villages, attack the breeding grounds of malaria, re-excavate silted tanks or fill up or drain stagnant and insanitary pools; they could in course of years turn the countryside of Bengal into the garden that it ought to be. With a cleaner countryside health will follow: with improved health will come improved energy, and with the habit of standing up against difficulties will come the strength and independence of character of men who have proved their worth by

sustained and constructive effort. How different that beneficent cycle would be from the vicious circle to which I, a moment ago, referred !

I do not want to talk politics but I cannot refrain from recalling the tragic wastage of energy and idealism that too often in this province have been poured out fruitlessly in sterile political agitations that have brought wealth to nobody, have inflicted misery on thousands of families and have left nothing behind them but an aftermath of weariness and disillusionment. I cannot help drawing the contrast and wondering how much wealthier would Bengal be to-day if all that energy had been turned into creative channels.

Let me now quote a few facts and figures. The value of the work that has been done by voluntary labour on the re-excavation of this Khal is estimated at the ordinary rates payable by the Public Works Department of Government to be 37,000 rupees. If that money had had to be collected and expended, there would have been assessments, collecting officers, accounts, objections, processes for recovery and all the elaborate machinery of administration that is involved in the raising of public taxation. There would have been contractors, supervisors, muster rolls, pay bills and all the procedure that is involved in the expenditure and audit of public money. This must be added to the real value of the wealth that you have produced and the total result will be over forty thousand rupees. Of the workers the bulk came from 13 unions and the Municipality of Brahmanbaria—but as the enthusiasm spread thousands of workers came from more distant places. I am informed that the total cess

paid by the tenants of the 13 unions chiefly concerned is about 4,400 rupees and their total union board rates about 19,500 rupees of which less than 2,500 rupees is for works of local improvement. The whole Municipality of Brahmanbaria in 1934 could spend only 2,500 rupees on works of a capital nature and less than 4,000 rupees on its buildings and roads. Yet over 40,000 rupees has been added at a stroke to these meagre local resources without impoverishing anybody. You do not find it easy in these days to pay the lesser sum that is represented by cess and union board taxes: yet you have not, I believe, found this work an intolerable burden on your resources: on the contrary you have found it a pleasure and have taken pride in it. Your principal wealth in the rural areas does not consist of hard cash. You sustain yourselves for the most part by the actual produce of your land which provides you to a large extent with food and the primary necessities of life. You need money for the payment of your rent, for the purchase of your oil, your cloth, your medicine, for education and the performance of those social ceremonies that religion or custom make obligatory and,—in happier times,—for the provision of those few luxuries that may come your way. Money to you, if I may say so, is not the milk but the cream of the milk, and any demand that is made in cash is a demand on the cream: it is a demand on that kind of wealth of which you have least. Your real surplus of wealth lies in the long days of comparative leisure during certain periods of the year and in the latent energy for which so long no fruitful outlet has been provided.

I do not believe that this source of wealth was left untouched in olden days. Travel over the countryside in many parts of Bengal and you will see the work of your ancestors. To quote one instance: you will find large and imposing tanks of great age. Look at the map of such tracts of country and you would say that the neighbourhood must be prosperous and well supplied with works of public utility. But go into the villages and you will find that those tanks which once held deep good drinking water are silted up, covered with weeds and have become the breeding ground of malaria. Have you ever asked yourselves—who dug them and why have they fallen into neglect? You may be told that the zemindars in olden days dug them and that since then the zemindars have gone away and the countryside is languishing. Do you think that the zemindars in the olden days always paid for these works in cash? Do you think that they had an elaborate Public Works Department and an intricate system of muster rolls, contracts and all the check and countercheck of audit? Or do you realise that—whether by the powers of inspiration or of oppression—they made themselves the leaders of the people that—whether by persuasion or compulsion—they took care that those things that were for the good of the countryside should somehow or other be carried out? I am not denying that the kind of rule that made such things possible was incompatible with the development in British India of conceptions of freedom and civic liberty. But I do say that if men are to be worthy of their freedom, they must replace by their own initiative and by their own hard work for the public

good the driving force that in other days was supplied by the power of despotic rulers. In the work that has been done here and in other efforts of a similar kind that I have heard of from elsewhere in the province I hope and believe that I can discern a new awakening to the responsibilities of liberty, a new realization of the meaning of manhood and patriotic service. X If that be so those who have set their hands to this task have accomplished far more than the tangible results that we see before us to-day,—they have opened up one of the brightest chapters in the history of rural Bengal.

***His Excellency's Speech at a Conference
held at Government House, Dacca, on
13th July 1936.***

When the additional garrison came to Bengal it brought with it, you will agree, more than the armed force it represented or the direct moral effect of seven additional battalions. It brought officers who had the opportunity of bringing a fresh point of view to bear upon local problems—officers perhaps who were less encumbered with details of routine and less preoccupied by the constant struggles of the previous two years than were the local officers of the Government of Bengal. And advantage was taken of this opportunity to appoint to work in an intermediate position between the civil and military authorities a number of officers under the designation of Military Intelligence Officers. In the beginning Government naturally concentrated their attention upon weak points requiring defence and upon direct methods of counter attack against the terrorist menace but as soon as the immediate situation began to be got more firmly into hand the scope of activity naturally began to widen. The local Government had for the first time for many years at their disposal in Bengal a number of officers who had the time and the opportunity to a degree which the District Officers had never had, or at least had not for a long time, to get in direct touch with the people and exert their own powers of leadership and example. Simultaneously with the easing of the immediate

pressure District and Subdivisional Officers themselves were able to devote more time to those constructive methods of combating terrorism and other dangerous or unwholesome tendencies—methods that to a large extent can now be brought under the familiar general term, “rural uplift”.

In emphasising the part the Military Officers placed in Bengal were able to play I do not wish for a moment to give you the impression that I mean anything derogatory to the activities of our own District Officers in the past. Very far indeed from it. In essence the point of view from which the District Officer and the Military Intelligence Officer approach the common problem is the same: but the latter has as I have said had the very great advantage of coming to the problem fresh and of being untrammelled by the very heavy routine work that unfortunately burdens all his colleagues in the civil administration. Apart from all that there has been, we think, in the course of the last few years a growing realisation of the fact that the function of the District Officer and his immediate co-adjutors is kinetic and not static. It is not perhaps a suitable time for me now to examine the reasons for this change in view. Some people may think that in the early years of the present Reforms there was a tendency on the part of the officers of Government to regard themselves more as the impartial executors of a higher policy or the detached administrators of rules and orders rather than as the active leaders of the people. That at any rate is an attitude that I have personally heard justified by Government servants of experience. Perhaps also it is true that the District

Officer felt himself in the position of being more a bulwark of the administration and consequently a target for anti-Government activities, rather than an actual dynamic force in the initiation of projects of local value. I do not know how far the attitude of apparent tolerance of anti-Government activities which Government itself appeared to be adopting a few years ago may have tended to encourage such a frame of mind. If it did, then perhaps the distinctly active attitude taken up by Government a few years ago was an important factor in reversing such an outlook on the part of its officers. But whatever be the cause the fact remains that during these last few years there has been not only in this province but throughout India a great impetus towards what may be called constructive local activity by District Officers: many have taken the initiative in carrying out in their districts work of reconstruction along the lines generally approved by Government. I do not say for a moment that this is the first time that such work has been done, for I am very well aware that it has been an old tradition of the administrative services to promote beneficent activities in their districts and it may be that it is due to the closer contact between Government itself and the people that Government in these latter days have displayed more interest in the constructive work of their officers, and more anxiety to give publicity to such work in a desire perhaps to share in the credit for it. Be that as it may, this feature of the District Officer's work is one which I have no doubt has come to stay and one on which an autonomous Government is likely to lay more stress in the future than has sometimes been laid on it in the past.

A further lesson that has been learnt in the fight against terrorism is the need for co-ordination of effort. At a fairly early stage it was found necessary to call into activity for this purpose the whole machinery of Government ignoring departmental barriers. Local officers of whatever department were called upon not only to be answerable for the conduct of their own families but to take active steps in combating subversive or terroristic propaganda and it was found in practice that the only authorities capable of co-ordinating their efforts were Commissioners of Divisions and District and Subdivisional Officers. This lesson of co-ordination learnt in times of trouble is one that has been applied for constructive purposes and it would be the greatest of misfortunes if that lesson were forgotten in what one may hope will be happier times in future.

What I have said may serve to indicate the attitude of mind in which I have approached this conference. I need only add, if General Lindsay will allow me to do so, that we are fortunate in having in command of the Presidency and Assam District a General Officer of active mind and wide sympathies. In the course of his travels in the province, I know, he has talked freely with people of all kinds and classes and his interest in our problems decided him a short time ago to have compiled an account of the main features of constructive work done by Military Intelligence Officers and to send this compilation to me with suggestions of his own. It was from that memorandum of his that the idea of the present Conference sprang. The object of the Conference as you will gather from the

agenda, is to compare notes and pool experience regarding the various forms the constructive work done by District and Military Intelligence Officers may best take; to consider in what directions direct help and inspiration from Government is necessary and practicable; to suggest means of encouraging what I have referred to as a dynamic outlook and lastly to consider how best to preserve and if possible improve for purposes both of administration and of constructive work a system of co-ordination of effort between all officers of Government to whatever department they may belong.

You will have observed that we have included in the agenda two items relating to the conduct of officers in connection with the forthcoming elections and with the attitude to be taken up by officers towards organisations of cultivators. It has been thought necessary to include these items because no discussion of the possibility of more active constructive work by District Officers could be complete without having very clear ideas as to how such activities may impinge on political and economic movements and what the attitude of District Officers must be towards those movements.

In the hope both of shortening discussion and of clarifying the issues, it was decided to circulate to you the instructions of Government on these two subjects. I understand that these instructions have not gone to everybody but they are available here. As regards those instructions when these items are reached, I would like to have your frank views as to any difficulties that may arise either from the interpretation of these circulars or from their application in practice.

As regards the various aspects of rural uplift all of you have received copies of a memorandum prepared by the Publicity Officer of Government from such materials as he has been able to obtain in the time at his disposal. This memorandum does not pretend to be a complete account, still less does it pretend to be an assessment of the achievement of individual districts or individual officers in this sphere of activity. It is merely a statement showing the lines followed in certain places which might be found useful in other places. Our object will be achieved if we can in this conference crystallise opinion regarding those lines of advance that are most likely to be of universal application. I am quite sure that there is no lack of constructive ideas in the districts. But the men who have those ideas are often too busily engaged in putting them into practice to be able to devote the time that would be required to write reports about them and send them to Government. Moreover, if such suggestions had to be formally examined by Government and formally circulated with their recommendation to other districts, the process would be long and involved. There would, I suppose, be the further danger that unless a practical suggestion were acted on at once it might pass merely into a file and come to rest in due course on, let us hope, the appropriate rack in the Collectorate Record Room. I would be interested to have your views as to whether any purpose would be served by the issue of periodical bulletins somewhat on the lines of the Memorandum now issued, to which officers from all parts of the province could contribute in readable form, their suggestions, to be edited and circulated as a bulletin

of suggestions that might perhaps be found useful but would not carry the formal imprimatur of Government.

One other point, and I have finished. If rural uplift work is to be of value it must be continuous. It is no good for one Collector to have a pet scheme of his own which his successor may abandon in favour of another. On the revenue and criminal side of the administration continuity has been provided for by a regular system of recorded inspections which has developed side by side with an elaborate code of manuals. Heaven forbid that the work of rural uplift should ever develop on these formal stereotyped lines: but I think the time has come to think of some method by which a reasonable degree of continuity can be secured. One suggestion has been that the general lines of development for each district as well as the particular projects on which work is needed should be mapped out and put on paper by the District Officer in consultation with his direct subordinates and the officers of other departments in his district, that the plan so mapped out should be discussed with the Commissioner and deposited as a district plan, to be added to or modified as necessary but not to be either abandoned or materially changed without the knowledge and consent of the Commissioner, whose duty it would be to look into this matter no less than into revenue and judicial matters in the course of his tours of inspection.

Well, gentlemen, that is all I have to say by way of a preliminary. I hope that what I have said may assist to some extent in shortening the discussion of the agenda and in leading to some definite practical and useful conclusion.

His Excellency's Speech at the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj Convocation at Dacca on 14th July 1936.

LEARNED PUNDITS OF THE EASTERN BENGAL
SARASWAT SAMAJ,

Once again it is my pleasant privilege to meet you assembled in Convocation and to see admitted to your ranks those who have proved themselves fit for a life devoted to learning.

The distinctive garb of your members is a familiar sight each year in the busy streets of this ancient city: in the midst of everyday affairs they come to remind us that scattered over the country in quiet places men still seek to pursue untroubled their studies in Sanskrit culture. The ancient Sanskrit civilization has exercised a profound influence over the life not only of India but also of diverse countries in the eastern world from the heights of the Himalayas to far off islands in tropical seas: its study has attracted in later centuries the attention of profound scholars in the western world who have sought to understand and interpret a culture that has played so large a part in the spiritual development of the human race.

As the guardians and promoters of these studies in Eastern Bengal you are charged with a high responsibility. I have been glad to hear from your President and from my own advisers that you have maintained your own standards and have continued to attract a due measure of support both in this province and from distant parts of India.

I thank you for your kind references- to myself, as also for your reference to the fact that my term of office will continue for some months more. In the ordinary course of events this means that I shall have the opportunity of meeting you once again next year. I thank you also for your kind references to my Minister for Education, the Vice-Chancellor and the officers of my Government who, as you have acknowledged, have given you encouragement and support.

While looking forward with hope and confidence to the system of Government that will be introduced in April next year, you have referred to a request that your Madya Examination as well as that of the Calcutta Sanskrit Association should be recognised as an educational standard to qualify for franchise in the General Constituency. The question of such educational qualifications was carefully considered having in view both the comparative standards adopted in different branches of learning and the practical difficulties of extending the franchise by such special qualifications beyond the powers of the administrative machinery to deal with it: it was decided that for the present at any rate it would not be possible to go below the standard of your Title Examinations. I hope however that large numbers of your passed students will find themselves enrolled in virtue of other qualifications, and I believe that you will not suffer as a Samaj from the lack of that small degree of extra representation that you might otherwise have obtained in the general constituencies as a whole.

Whatever may be the controversies as regards education as a means to an end, it would be a sad

day for any country when learning for its own sake ceased to be held in honour. I believe that whatever changes may take place in the future, the scholar pursuing his way in peace and quietness will ever be held in esteem by the peoples and Governments in India.

May I endorse my appreciation of the generous patrons of your learning to whom you have referred and may I join with you in the hope that their support will be long maintained. Your income, I know, is not large and the account that you have given of the main items of your expenditure shows that you employ it for the true encouragement of the aims for which your Samaj exists.

I for my part have the greatest pleasure in repeating this year the gift that I have made in past years towards the promotion of your objects.

May I in conclusion acknowledge your loyalty to the great fellowship to which we all belong and to the Person and Throne of its august ruler.

I have been touched by the faith that has inspired your references to our late beloved Sovereign and share with you the high hopes that you set upon the wisdom and humanity of his young but already illustrious successor.

We live in troubled times and the distant tumult of battle reverberates far afield to disturb the quiet contemplation of the scholar. We in this Empire have come to regard it as our privilege to pursue our ways without fear as citizens of a well guarded city: but let us not forget what we owe to those who stand on guard at the gates. Let us remember also those on whom it falls to take counsel with

our neighbours in the attempt to reconstruct the shattered peace of the world. Of this at any rate I am sure, that in the effort to preserve an ordered liberty of mankind against despotism on the one hand and anarchy on the other, no force will be stronger than an abiding faith in the principles on which the British Commonwealth of Nations is endeavouring under the inspiration of its Sovereign and his Parliaments to preserve and develop its work for mankind.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Conference
of Union Boards of Dacca District on
17th July 1936.***

MR. SHAHABUDDIN AND GENTLEMEN,

I thank you for the warmth of the welcome which you have given me to-day, and I have listened with much interest to the addresses which you have presented.

This district was one of the first in which Union Boards were established and the steady progress which has been made in the development of these units of self Government not only in this district but in most parts of the province has been a cause of great satisfaction. During the first decade of their existence the income of the Union Boards of this district increased three-fold, from some two lakhs to six or six and a half lakhs of rupees. The world economic depression however affected all branches of Government in all countries adversely from the financial point of view. Whilst it lasted special efforts were required by observing strict economy and maintaining efficiency even on diminished means, to keep the standard of administration at a proper level. Now that the depression is seen bit by bit to be lifting it is our duty to ensure that the high standard forced upon us by necessity is not lost again as our resources expand. In your case the easing of the financial position is accompanied by the broadening of your powers under the Village Self Government (Amendment) Act of 1935. I note your appreciation of this

extension of those powers, duties and privileges and am assured that you will take advantage of them for the all-round betterment of village life.

I am gratified by your appreciative references to the constructive schemes which have been introduced by my Government during my term of office; and I have noted with satisfaction the keen response which has been given by Union Boards in this district and elsewhere to the campaigns for jute restriction and water-hyacinth clearance.

I am glad to hear that in your opinion the efforts made in this district to carry out the Government policy of voluntary restriction of the area under jute have been fruitful. The official forecast of the area under jute this year has been published district by district but I have not yet had an opportunity of analysing the figures which were not fully available until just before I left Calcutta. I have noticed, however, that there have not been wanting critics who on the basis of trade figures, whether reliable or not I cannot say, have declared with, I think, some smack of satisfaction that the scheme has failed. The very figures, however, on which these critics rely, belie their conclusions. Weather conditions may have favoured restriction last year. They have not done so this year. The increased prices secured as a result of last year's restriction coupled with very favourable weather conditions would normally have resulted in a considerable expansion of the area under jute this year. The trade figures, for what they are worth and I take no responsibility for them, warrant the conclusion not only that there has been no such expansion but that this year's efforts will result in a further

diminution in the surplus jute in stock which it was the object and the sole object of the scheme to restore to normal. The same figures suggest that in certain small areas outside the scope of the restriction scheme promoted by my Government considerable expansion has taken place. In these circumstances while I must make it clear that a final judgment cannot be pronounced until the final official returns are available, I feel justified in expressing to you the gratitude of Government for the support you have given to their efforts.

When you go on to advocate compulsory restriction coupled with minimum prices, I cannot follow you with the same alacrity. This is not the time or the occasion for embarking upon a critical examination of either of these very debatable propositions. In any case I am not going to anticipate any conclusions that Governments, exercising full responsibility under the new Constitution which is to come into operation next year, may come to. I would only utter the warning that the matter is not so simple as it looks. Compulsory restriction must involve among other things an accurate record of the amount of jute grown in the past by each one of many lakhs of cultivators. It must involve penalties for cultivators who exceed their allotted share. It must involve some system of tribunals to hear and determine appeals. All this represents a very formidable problem in administration and finance and it was for that reason that the present Government, following the recommendation of a very strong and representative Committee, decided that compulsory restriction should not be considered further until voluntary restriction had been fully tried out.

So much for compulsory restriction. As for the fixing of a minimum price—which by the way is not a necessary, though it might be a desirable, accompaniment of a scheme of compulsory restriction—I can say without hesitation that anyone who could produce a practicable scheme of price fixation and make it work would earn my unstinted admiration. You may say, but what about sugar-cane? Has not the price of that been fixed and, if so, why not the price of jute? Well, in the first place it is not true to say that the price of sugar-cane has been fixed. What is true is that in certain provinces a minimum price has been fixed for sugar-cane bought at a factory. Otherwise people are free to buy or sell sugar-cane as they like. Apart from that, remember the obvious fact that sugar-cane is sugar-cane and jute is jute. Jute can be and is stored almost indefinitely: it can be carried long distances and it can be and is sold in large quantities to purchasers abroad. None of these things is true of sugar-cane and that makes all the difference.

As regards water-hyacinth clearance, I have noted your determination never to relax your efforts until the pest is exterminated. In your campaign you will be encouraged by the knowledge that all the adjacent districts have taken up the work with vigour, and that the success of your endeavours will not be endangered by an uncontrolled inrush of the plant across your borders. Your efforts too will serve as an encouragement to those other districts, and I look forward to the day when this province will be free for all practical purposes from this persistent weed. As I suggested a few days ago

in Brahmanbaria, where the present campaign against the hyacinth began, the wealth of the people of the countryside lies not only in rupees and annas, of which they may have few, but in the willing devotion to the common weal of their energy and leisure moments, of which they have enough and to spare. It is by the employment of this wealth that you may bring the otherwise costly project of hyacinth clearance to fruition. Even when the province has been cleared except for scraps and remnants here and there, it will still be necessary to keep an unceasing vigilance on all your ponds and waterways. If you are able to maintain this watchful attitude, and to imbue your neighbours and your children with the same determined spirit, I see no reason to fear that water-hyacinth will ever again be a menace in Bengal.

I share your belief in the value of the Agricultural Debtors' Act, and look forward to the setting up of the Boards which will be instituted under it for the settlement of debts as far as possible by agreement between creditors and debtors. A very great deal of hard and detailed administrative work has been necessary before these Boards could be set up but good progress has been made and proposals for the early establishment of some 380 Boards have already been made; it is hoped that a further 300 may be established before the end of the financial year. The existence of acute distress owing to failure of crops in certain districts in West Bengal will inevitably involve delay in the introduction of the Act in those districts.

I sympathise with your aspirations in the matter of Primary Education. The Primary Education

Act, as the Chairman of the District Board has said, has been partially introduced into this district. But, as you know, before full effect can be given to the Act, the education cess contemplated therein must be levied. An enquiry has recently been made by the Hon'ble Minister for Education from certain districts in the province as to whether they are in a position to bear the imposition of the cess. Much will depend on the result of that enquiry as well as on the financial arrangements that the Government to be set up under the new constitution may find it possible to make.

I have noted what you have said with regard to water-supply in rural areas. I understand that the Union Boards of this district have given much attention to the sinking of tube-wells, and I consider this a very wise and far-seeing policy on your part. I am pleased to observe from what the Chairman of the District Board has said, that the Board are seriously considering taking a loan from Government for the improvement of water-supply in the villages. The loan policy of Government has of late been liberalised, and though the precise amount of the loan will depend on calculations to be made, I can assure the District Board that their application for a loan for a comprehensive scheme of this nature will receive the most sympathetic consideration of Government. May I, however, emphasise the necessity of seeing that any wells sunk from this money shall be of adequate quality to survive the full life of the loan.

The Chairman of the District Board has referred to the necessity for the improvement in the breed of cattle, and to the appeal issued by His Excellency

the Viceroy in that connection. I am glad to hear of the record of the District Board in this respect; and I wish you the fullest success in the organisation of propaganda in this District.

Gentlemen, I have replied briefly to all the points which you have raised. It is, I fear, impossible for me to enter into a detailed reply to every issue which you have brought before me. You have, however, expressed your gratification that several of your suggestions made in a previous conference have been carried into effect; I have no doubt that your deliberations at this conference also will be brought to the notice of my Government who will, I know, consider them with sympathy and care.

It now remains for me, whilst thanking you once more for the welcome which you have accorded me, to declare this conference open.

***His Excellency's Address to gentlemen
Invested at the Dacca Durbar on 27th
July 1936.***

SARDAR BAHADUR SUBADAR MAJOR PHALAM RAM
GARO,

You have been in the service for some thirty-four years and have held the Viceroy's Commission for over half that period. During the five years that you were Jemadar Adjutant you did much useful work for the Bengal Battalion of the Eastern Frontier Rifles, and were appointed Subadar Major of the Battalion in 1934. In trying and dangerous circumstances you have not only justified to the full the confidence which was reposed in you but have also known how to maintain a cheerful disposition in all difficulties and thereby to become a source of encouragement to the men who have been placed below you. I congratulate you on the conferment of the title of Sardar Bahadur which you have so well deserved.

KHAN BAHADUR HAJI MUHAMMAD KHALILUR
RAHMAN,

By the determined manner in which you have set your face against terrorism and have done all that has lain within your power to help the administration in its fight against that evil, you have at personal sacrifice set a fine example to your own district and to the province. You have displayed your interest in civic affairs as a Councillor of the Calcutta Corporation. The generous donation

which you have recently made for the establishment of a charitable dispensary has been of great value to the people of your locality, where you have earned the respect of all classes and communities. His Excellency the Viceroy has conferred upon you the title of Khan Bahadur, and I have now the pleasure of handing to you the Sanad of this well-merited distinction.

KHAN BAHADUR CHAUDHURI KHALEK NEWAJ KHAN,

You have been President of Srifaltali Union Board for some sixteen years, during which time substantial progress has been made in the improvement of water-supply, means of communication and the spread of primary education throughout the Union. The keen interest which you take in the welfare of those around you, your loyalty and personal care of your zemindari, your generous gifts of land for the public benefit and your other charitable activities prove you to be a worthy representative of the ancient family to which you belong. I congratulate you upon the conferment upon you of the title of Khan Bahadur.

RAI SAURINDRA NATH MITRA BAHADUR,

You were originally appointed to the police service in 1908 and for two long periods have served in the Intelligence Branch. You have distinguished yourself in the spheres of detective and intelligence work and have at times in the performance of your duties been subjected to considerable personal risk. In 1927 the title of Rai Sahib was conferred upon you and in 1932 His late Majesty awarded you the King's Police

Medal. I now hand you the Sanad of the further distinction of Rai Bahadur which His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you.

KHAN BAHADUR MAHMOOD HASAN,

You were originally appointed to the Assam Educational Service, but relinquished your service in Assam in response to a request to remain at Dacca. You are now the Provost of the Muslim Hall and, besides being a scholar of repute, are Commanding Officer of the University Training Corps, 12th Dacca Company. You hold the respect and confidence of the students in your charge. In times of communal or political turmoil, you have counted it your duty to encourage by personal influence and example the active co-operation of your students on the side of peace. I have much pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of the title of Khan Bahadur which His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you.

KHAN BAHADUR GOLAM KIBRIA,

Your record of public service in the district of Jalpaiguri includes work as a Municipal Commissioner since 1921, and as a member of the District Board of Jalpaiguri since 1927. You have also been a member of the Dispensary Managing Committee since 1927 and have twice served on the Selection Board of the Jackson Medical School at Jalpaiguri. The energy and enthusiasm which you devoted in aid of the Silver Jubilee Fund and the Viceroy's Earthquake Fund resulted in substantial sums being raised for those good causes. I congratulate upon the conferment of the title of Khan Bahadur upon you.

KHAN SAHIB ABUL HASNAT AHMED,

You were elected Chairman of the old Mograpara Union Committee twenty-six years ago and on the constitution of the Union Board were elected its President. You became a member of the Narayan-ganj Local Board twenty years ago and have been a member of the District Board of Dacca for eleven years. You are serving as a Commissioner of the Dacca Municipality of which you were Vice-Chairman from 1930 to 1933, and continue to hold several other positions of trust and of public importance. Your help during the difficult times of the Great War was of value to the administration and last year your activities in connection with Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee met with marked success. His Excellency the Viceroy has now bestowed upon you the title of Khan Sahib, upon which distinction I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB BIPIN BEHARI MUKHARJEE,

Not content with a long career in the police, you devoted yourself still further to the public service on your retirement to your own village some five years ago and became President of the Betka Union Board. Under your presidency the Board's administration has been financially sound and a proper system of water-supply has been established throughout the Union. You have supported established authority in the maintenance of law and order in your locality and at a ripe age your energy continues unimpaired in the cause of rural reconstruction. You have well merited the title of Rai Sahib which has been awarded to you. I now have pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of that distinction.

KHAN SAHIB SYED MUHAMMAD AFZAL,

You have held a considerable number of important positions in Perojpur, including the Vice-Chairmanship of both the Local Board and the Municipality, the Secretaryship of the Local Haj Committee, and of the Central Co-operative Bank. You have also been a member of the District Board of Bakarganj for over nine years, and were at one time a member of the Bengal Legislative Council. You have openly and actively upheld the principles of ordered Government, and have given of your best in service to your District and the Province. It is therefore with much pleasure that I now hand to you the Sanad of the title of Khan Sahib, which has been bestowed upon you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABDUL AZIZ,

The Mohanganj Union Board in Mymensingh district of which you are President is in the foremost rank of the Union Boards in the Netrakona subdivision. The bench and court which are attached to the Board have earned commendation and you have also established a Union Board charitable dispensary. Besides your activities in the Union Board you carry out with enthusiasm the duties of Secretary of the Mohanganj High English School and are an elected member of the Mymensingh District Board. Your local influence has been directed towards co-operation with the authorities instances of which are your very practical interest in the spread of sugar-cane cultivation, and your donation of Silver Jubilee booklets. I congratulate you upon the award of the title of Khan Sahib the Sanad of which I now present to you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI KHWAJA NURUDDIN,

You joined the police service as a Sub-Inspector in 1917 and were promoted to the rank of Inspector. Your work in the police has been consistently good, and in the Netrokona Subdivision of Mymensingh you achieved marked success both in the control of crime and the countering of subversive political agitation. You have also rendered useful service in the District Intelligence Branch. Your tact and ability have won for you popularity with your own service as also with the public. I congratulate you upon the bestowal of the title of Khan Sahib, the Sanad of which distinction I now have pleasure in handing to you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI SHAIKH ABDULLAH,

You joined the Junior Bengal Civil Service in 1916, and after service as a Sub-Deputy Collector and as Assistant Settlement Officer, you became some six years later Superintendent of Sericulture. Whilst in this position you were responsible for the introduction of *Eri* silk and also for the great improvement of disease-free seed in your Circle. Since 1933 you have been Personal Assistant to the Director of Agriculture, in which capacity you have demonstrated both administrative capacity and the ability to deal with work of many and varied aspects. In recognition of your services the title of Khan Sahib has been conferred upon you, and I congratulate you upon this well-merited distinction.

RAI SAHIB BIMALA CHARAN GUHA,

For some twenty-one years you were a Sub-Deputy Magistrate, during which time your work

on the criminal side was especially valuable. On retirement you have continued to make your services available and have displayed unfailing energy and ability as an Honorary Magistrate with First Class Powers. In recognition of your voluntary devotion to public service and of the high quality of the work which you continue to perform, the title of Rai Sahib has been conferred upon you. I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB AMRITA LAL MUKHERJEE,

As Headmaster of the Chayagaon High English School in the district of Faridpur you have consistently opposed the spread of anarchical and subversive activities in your neighbourhood. Neither the fear of unpopularity nor the risk of personal danger deterred you from using the full weight of your authority and influence against terrorism. Your services to the administration have been most valuable, and I now hand to you the Sanad of the title of Rai Sahib which you have so well deserved.

RAI SAHIB SURENDRA NATH LAHIRI,

You joined the police as probationary Sub-Inspector in 1907 and as early as 1918 were promoted to officiate as Inspector. In the same year you were posted to the Criminal Investigation Department, in which you did excellent work in the detection of dacoities and the breaking up of criminal gangs. Your service has been consistently of a high order and in 1931 you were promoted to officiate as Deputy Superintendent of Police, in

which capacity you have continued to work with marked ability. I congratulate you upon the award of the title of Rai Sahib.

RAI SAHIB MOKSHADA PROSAD GHOSH,

You were promoted to the rank of Veterinary Inspector in 1933 and in the same year were appointed to officiate as Assistant Director in the Eastern Range, being confirmed in that post shortly afterwards. You have fully justified your selection for this appointment by diligent hard work. You have shown marked ability in administration and propaganda and have applied the new anti-rinderpest vaccine in your range with success. Your long and meritorious service has earned the award of the title of Rai Sahib by His Excellency the Viceroy and I congratulate you.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Durbar
held at Dacca on 27th July 1936.***

I had not intended to address you at this Durbar but a matter of public importance has recently been brought into prominence which, I feel, I ought not to pass over in silence, on an occasion such as the present. Within the last two weeks two series of articles have appeared in the "Statesman" dealing with a subject which is still of the greatest importance in this province—terrorism. Those articles treat the matter from opposite points of view and may therefore leave the general reader in a state of some bewilderment. I have no intention of joining at close quarters in a controversy where the last word in matters of detail must rest with the critics, but there are certain facts which I can fairly claim are beyond the sphere of argument. There have also been suggestions for better methods of combating terrorism—suggestions which, though purporting to be based on special knowledge, seem to me to ignore what is actually being done.

The writer of the first series of articles, while conceding that terrorism has for the time being been brought under control, puts forward the thesis that the methods employed by the police and others concerned have been entirely misconceived. Now, it is thirty years since the Police in Bengal had first to deal with an organized terrorist conspiracy. On three occasions a great wave of organized crime has burst upon this unfortunate province and on each occasion it has been broken, primarily by the determined assiduous and courageous efforts of our

police. With that experience behind them their conclusions are entitled to respect and a critic who purports to speak with authority in challenging those conclusions cannot fairly complain if his authority is called in question.

It has been suggested that the police have learnt so little in thirty years that they cannot even distinguish between good sources of information and bad—that on the testimony of informers who are either impressionable schoolboys or unemployed vagabonds, many men have been deprived of their liberty—presumably in prison or in detention camp. I say from personal investigation that such a suggestion is entirely fanciful. Not long ago the Home Member of the Government of India, the Hon'ble Sir Henry Craik, dealt with this matter in the Legislative Assembly and on information supplied by the Government of Bengal—information for the accuracy of which I take full responsibility—explained the extraordinary precautions taken to guard against any mistake. I myself have examined the records of a large number of detenus selected by myself entirely at random from a nominal register and I am satisfied that the possibility of mistake is exceedingly small. This is fully borne out by information voluntarily supplied by persons who have in the past themselves been detenus.

Quite distinct from detention in camp or prison are those milder forms of restriction imposed by district officers on persons under the age of twenty-one as authorised by the legislature two years ago. In such cases I am prepared to admit that the possibility of mistake is greater; but that is inevitable in the nature of the case. As

explained in the Council at the time, the object of those provisions of 1934 was reclamation, without recourse to the more drastic action which up till then had been the only method of employing the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act. If that object of reclamation is to be attained action must be taken at the early stage when a youth first shows signs of going astray. The early symptoms of a disease are obviously more difficult to diagnose accurately than its full manifestations. But such action is normally taken, as the Act requires, in consultation with parents and guardians, and the consequences of a mistake, if one is made, can easily be set right. Such action is fundamentally different from detention in the drastic sense of the word and criticism that fails to distinguish between the two cases is neither informed nor constructive.

The criticism of course remains that all this repression, however successful it may be for the time being—and we claim without hesitation that the “repressive” measures adopted by Government have fully succeeded in bringing the terrorist menace under control—can never provide a radical cure. But here let us beware of false sentiment. “All law”,—that is, of course all criminal law—“is repression, and when there is a revolt it is folly to imagine that the ordinary processes of the law can be carried out”. These words—save for an explanation of their context—are not mine. They are words of a great statesman—a great Liberal statesman of international reputation—uttered only a few weeks ago in the House of Commons with reference not to India but to a situation that has arisen elsewhere. I respectfully associate myself

with his pronouncement, and may I add that all civic liberty is based upon respect for law or enforcement of law. Law, and if necessary emergency law, has to be enforced with vigour and determination against those who would destroy liberty, if the civil liberties of those who would go in peace on their lawful occasions are to be preserved.

I would however be the last to claim that what is called repression is the end of the matter. Other remedies must be sought—but not fancy remedies. There has been a suggestion that we should hold up the budding terrorists to contempt by publishing nominal lists with particulars of their activities. I appreciate the object of the suggestion but the means are a matter of experience. The object underlying the suggestion is already being achieved far better and with less risk of injustice by the system of identity cards, which is in force in one or two areas where subversive activity has been most intense. It has been suggested again that Government should set up a special organisation for propaganda and conciliation independent of the agencies normally at work in the districts. That suggestion, too, experience must reject. The task of Government cannot be divided up in this way: an independent official agency for conciliation would be just as objectionable in its own way as an independent secret police. I repeat, however, as I have said before, that Government have a duty to attack this great evil at its very root. What have we in fact done towards that end? A year ago, here in Dacca, at the Police Parade, I foreshadowed the steps to be taken to give to such among the detenus as were not found completely irreconcilable an

opportunity, by training in industry or agriculture, of becoming useful citizens. That scheme has been in operation since the early part of this year with results that are definitely encouraging. It is being steadily developed.

I have already referred to the provisions of law passed in 1934 which were meant for the protection and reclamation of young men found to be toying with terrorist ideas without as yet having become deeply involved. Full use has been made by district officers of their powers under the Act. I know that they and other officers associated with them in their task are continually in touch with parents and guardians. There may well be individual instances where the parties have nevertheless felt themselves aggrieved. For that matter I have known of cases where the parents themselves have lived to regret that they knew less than the police and the district officers did about what was really happening to their children—but any general assertion by whomsoever made that officers of Government do not care to seek non-official co-operation in this matter is neither informed nor helpful criticism proper to the field of genuine controversy.

Apart from these measures directed specifically at the reclamation and protection of those who have come in a greater or less degree under terrorist influence, Government have been making determined efforts to create conditions unfavourable to the spread of the terrorist virus. In particular they have given the full weight of their support to stimulating, to co-ordinating and to assisting with funds a variety of measures, which may all be

broadly classified under the term "rural reconstruction", such as it had formerly been the practice to leave to the personal choice and initiative of individual officers in the districts. The importance of such work has long been recognised but the efforts of individual officers in the past have received far too little publicity and far too little support to ensure their continuity. Among that group of officers who were murdered in the black period of four or five years ago because they would not shrink from doing their duty—among that group of officers who died for Bengal in the truest sense of the words—were men who deplored above all the fact that the energies they wanted to devote to the uplift of the country had to be devoted with the same zeal to the task of preventing its disintegration. Such men took no pleasure in repressive activities; they looked forward eagerly to the time when they might overcome the forces of destruction and turn their energies once again to constructive work. I rejoice that Government has now recognised as part of its continuing responsibilities the constructive work in the districts that made so strong an appeal to men like these. These men believed—and I share their belief—that, once the forces of organised disorder had been broken, the organisation of the people for their own uplift would in due time produce a healthier and more hopeful environment in which the virus of terrorism could no longer survive.

But the value of the work goes far beyond even the eradication of terrorism. If there were no terrorist conspiracy nor any other movement subversive of ordered government it would still be

worth doing for its own sake. He was a wise man, I think, who observed a long time ago "The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge". Does not that observation contain an explanation of much that has gone amiss in Bengal during the last thirty years? If you think it does, you will agree with me that it behoves us all to do everything in our power to infuse more sweetness into the lives of the country people and particularly the young folk.

Just a fortnight ago, before the beginning of the newspaper controversy to which I referred in my opening observation, I convened a Conference here in Dacca which was attended by District Magistrates, Superintendents of Police and Military Intelligence Officers from all parts of Eastern Bengal, two Commissioners of Divisions and various military officers including the General Officer Commanding himself. Our purpose was to devise means for the better co-ordination and more systematic development of all this rural reconstruction work in which we want all the agencies of Government to take part in co-operation with representatives of the people. We came to valuable conclusions which I shall ask Government to put into operation at once. That I think is the best answer to any suggestion that Government are indifferent to the need or the potentialities of constructive effort.

If the present controversy and the further comments to which it will doubtless give rise should result in focussing the attention of thinking men and women upon the next stage in the problem, neither Government nor the people will

have reason to regret its occurrence. On the contrary, they may well be under an obligation to the press for stimulating frank discussion in so far as that discussion is constructive. All that I can ask, speaking as the Head of the Government, is that those who may in the future participate in such discussion should do so as seekers after truth and if they purport to speak with knowledge should be especially careful to ensure the accuracy of what they put forward as facts.

His Excellency's addresses to Recipients of King's Police Medal, Indian Police Medal and the Royal Humane Society Medal and to the Members of the Public to whom rewards were given at the Police Parade, held at Dacca, on 28th July 1936.

King's Police Medal.

INSPECTOR HERAMBA CHANDRA GHOSH,

In more than thirty-one years of service you have received rewards on nearly a hundred occasions thirty-eight of which have been given to you during the last ten years. In 1926 you were appointed to Chittagong at a difficult time and the decrease in crime in that district in the following years may to a large extent be attributed to the efficiency with which you carried out your duties. Again in 1931-32 you showed yourself capable of dealing successfully with an outbreak of serious crime, and were of the greatest assistance to your superior officers in the difficult and dangerous days which followed the Armoury Raid. I have now much pleasure in decorating you with the King's Police Medal, an award which you have done so much to deserve by your steady and able work throughout your service and particularly during the unusually trying period of the last few years.

INSPECTOR HEM CHANDRA SEN GUPTA,

His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to award to you the King's Police Medal in recognition of the able manner in which you unravelled the intricacies of a terrorist organisation in this district, finally succeeding in arresting some

notorious absconders and seizing firearms. I congratulate you most heartily.

INSPECTOR RADHA RAMAN CHATARJI,

You have successfully investigated a number of difficult cases in which serious crimes, including robbery and attempted murder, were committed by revolutionaries. I am very pleased to be able to decorate you to-day with the King's Police Medal, a distinction which you have so well deserved.

INSPECTOR HARI BHUSHAN BANARJI,

An Inspector of Police in the Intelligence Branch, you have been responsible for much good work in the prevention of terrorist outrages. You have been able to collect information with great tact and resource, have apprehended notorious absconders and have contributed to the successful conclusion of several conspiracy cases. I congratulate you upon the award of the King's Police Medal.

**OFFICIATING INSPECTOR RAMENDRA NATH
MUKHARJI,**

Owing to your work several terrorist plots of a serious nature were frustrated before they could be put into action by their authors. You have been able to prevent outrages by the arrest of terrorists carrying firearms and ammunition and have thus run a considerable personal risk in the execution of your duty. In recognition of your able service and the special part you have played in preventing revolutionary crime, His Majesty has been pleased to award you the King's Police Medal. I have pleasure in decorating you with this well-merited distinction.

OFFICIATING INSPECTOR PANCHANAN SIKDAR,

For the last few years you have been a District Intelligence Branch Officer in Chittagong, becoming senior Inspector in 1933. The services which you rendered shortly after the Armoury Raid at Chittagong were of great value at that critical period and you have shown skill, industry and courage in the performance of your duties. Your ability and initiative have contributed much to the success which has been achieved in the District Intelligence Branch of Chittagong in the last few years. You have well merited the award by His Majesty of the King's Police Medal, with which I now decorate you.

Indian Police Medal.**BABU PRAMODA CHARAN MUKHARJI,****OFFICIATING DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF
POLICE.**

You have played an important part in the investigation of several political cases of great importance, and through your pertinacity and ability those cases were brought to a successful conclusion. Your excellent work has been recognised by the award of the Indian Police Medal, upon which I congratulate you.

INSPECTOR AMABENDRA NATH MITRA,

By means of your courage and tact the arrest of many dangerous terrorist absconders has been brought about. I congratulate you upon the award of the Indian Police Medal which you have well deserved.

INSPECTOR NIROD CHANDRA MUKHARJI,

As a probationary Sub-Inspector many years ago you tackled a gang of armed dacoits and it was largely through your agency that they were brought to justice. During the last decade your work has lain in the District Intelligence Branch. As District Intelligence Branch officer you have maintained a high standard of efficiency and have rendered valuable services both against organised disorder and in cases of a dangerous political character. I congratulate you upon the conferment upon you of the Indian Police Medal.

OFFICIATING INSPECTOR JAMUNA SINGH,

You came to the Bengal Police with a good military record, which included service in the Afghan War, in Mesopotamia and on the North-West Frontier. Your services at the Hijli Detention Camp have been especially valuable for you have been able to combine the capacity for hard work with tact, patience and assiduity. I congratulate you upon the award of the Indian Police Medal which has been made to you.

OFFICIATING INSPECTOR BANESWAR BARMAN,

Since joining the District Intelligence Branch in 1932 you have displayed detective ability of a high order, and have been instrumental in checking many crimes of a serious nature and in the suppression of organisations which aim at the overthrow of ordered Government. In dealing with armed and dangerous criminals you have exposed yourself to a high degree of personal danger. The Indian Police Medal has now been awarded to you. I congratulate you.

OFFICIATING INSPECTOR BANKIM BIHARI BANARJI,

You have an unblemished record of 16 years' service in the Police and from 1931 have worked in the District Intelligence Branch in Mymensingh. In this work you have displayed 'considerable courage and untiring energy, by the recovery of arms from revolutionaries and by the suppression of organisations of a terrorist character. I congratulate you on the award of the Indian Police Medal.

OFFICIATING INSPECTOR BADRUDDIN AHMED,

During your service in the Police you have had an exemplary record and have earned frequent commendations. As an officiating Inspector of Police you have been successful in the control of terrorism within your Circle and have secured the confidence of the people. In decorating you with the Indian Police Medal I congratulate you upon the award of that distinction.

SUB-INSPECTOR SAIYID ALI IRTAZA,

In recognition of the exceptional courage which you displayed in the arrest of an armed dacoit at the risk of your own life, the Indian Police Medal has been awarded to you. In decorating you with the Medal I congratulate you.

SUB-INSPECTOR LAKSHMI NARAYAN MUKHARJI,

You joined the Police as a Sub-Inspector in 1928 and since 1931 have worked in the District Intelligence Branch. You have displayed great courage in carrying out the duties which have been entrusted to you, and your services in arresting dangerous absconders have been of great value. I congratulate you upon the award of the Indian Police Medal, with which I now decorate you.

Royal Humane Society.

SUB-INSPECTOR MADAN MOHAN THAKUR,

You jumped into the river Ganges and swam out sixty feet in a strong current to rescue a man who was in difficulties. You were able to reach him and bring him back safely to the bank, accomplishing this difficult feat at considerable risk to your life. I congratulate you on your gallantry and have much pleasure in presenting you with the bronze medal and certificate of the Royal Humane Society.

Members of the Public. .

MAULVI SEKENDAR ALI CHAUDHURI,

President, Union Board, and Zamindar, Haturia.

On receiving information that a gang of suspected dacoits was passing by your village in a boat you hastened to the river with other villagers, effected the arrest of the gang who were in possession of deadly weapons and made them over to the police. All were convicted except one who turned approver.

BABU BHUPENDRA NATH MUKHARJI,

President, Simulia Union Board.

Your suspicions being roused by information regarding the absence of certain bad characters you kept watch over their movements and helped the police in the investigation of the dacoity which they had committed. Your keen interest in the case contributed materially to bringing the dacoits to justice.

BABU MATINDRA NATH MUKHARJI,

Auditor, Co-operative Societies,

Your careful audit of the accounts of the Barisal Annapurna Bank followed by a very suspicious fire in the bank building led to the investigation of a suspected embezzlement in which you gave the most thorough and skilled assistance to the police and the prosecution, greatly contributing to the final detection and conviction of the guilty persons.

BABU GIRISH CHANDRA MAITY,

In October 1935 a gang of 18 dacoits committed a dacoity in the house of your master in the course of which you also were attacked. On their departure you followed them, collected aid and succeeded in capturing 13 of the men with the stolen property. The case ended in conviction.

BABU ABINASH CHANDRA MONDAL,

You bravely came to the help of a neighbour in whose house a dacoity was being committed and fired at the dacoits injuring one of them. By establishing his identity it proved possible for the police to bring to light a formidable gang who had not hesitated to murder and behead their own companion in the hope of concealing his identity.

BABU MAHIMAPADA MUKHARJI,

You rendered the most valuable assistance in the collection of evidence in a case in which the accused were charged with a conspiracy to commit dacoities, thereby materially contributing to the conviction of 8 persons.

BABU SURENDRA KUMAR MAZUMDAR,

BABU HARENDRA KUMAR DE,

BABU SATISH CHANDRA DE,

Armed only with lathis and agricultural implements you came to the rescue of a wealthy money-lender whose house was being attacked by about 30 dacoits armed with a gun and other deadly weapons. Owing to your brave resistance some of the dacoits were injured and one armed with a large knife was captured.

His Excellency's Speech at the Police Parade held at Dacca on 28th July 1936.

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE BENGAL POLICE FORCE,

I am glad to be present again at a parade which, though limited in numbers, is representative of the mofussil police of Bengal, and which gives me an opportunity of addressing them through you on certain aspects of the work which the Force has done during the past year.

I do not propose on this occasion to comment in detail on the various departments of the police organisation that have contributed to a year's successful administration. That will be done when the time comes for the Governor-in-Council to publish his Resolution on the Report of the Inspector-General of Police. I would, however, take this opportunity of mentioning the Police Training School at Sarda, which I have personally visited since I last addressed you; I mention it because I feel that the public do not realise how much trouble and skill is devoted to the training not only of officers but of the ordinary constable. I came away from Sarda with a very clear impression that as a school of physical fitness, morale and practical intelligence, the Police Training College deserves to rank high among the educational institutions in the province.

Turning now to certain features of your work of more general interest, I am glad to observe in the year 1935 a decrease of nearly five per cent. in the totals of true reported crimes against property—a decrease that includes both dacoity and burglary.

The control of such crimes is rightly accepted as one of the main standards by which the work of a Police force is judged: you may fairly claim that your pressure upon the criminal has been in no way relaxed and that the ground gained during 1934 has been well maintained. This represents a very great advance on the position during the disordered years of 1931 and 1932 and it is good to see that with the fall in the number of crimes there has nevertheless been a substantial increase in the number of persons convicted. I know, however, that your Inspector-General is not content with the situation especially as regards dacoity. I have been interested to see an analysis that he has had made of these crimes, from which it appears that out of 1,242 dacoities committed in 1935 some 300 can be ascribed to economic reasons and 590 to organised gangs against whom 89 convictions have been secured. The fact remains, however, that, as you yourselves recognise, there is still a long way to go before you get dacoities down to the level of pre-war days. It is true that if allowance is made for those cases that can be ascribed to the abnormal economic conditions that continued to operate last year, the cases due to sheer criminality are comparable in number to those that occurred in the comparatively peaceful and prosperous years about 1927: but neither you nor I can rest content with that. The field of operations of the dacoit extends to the whole population—especially the rural population—of the province and this fact tends to make the mischief less impressive than it would be if the whole volume of crimes of this nature were concentrated in a particular area or directed against a particular and limited

class of the community. If that were so, even the present improved situation could well be described as one of emergency. But dacoity is a standing menace, not an emergent one—so much so that dacoity at least on a certain scale has come to be regarded as a normal feature in the life of India. That is a position that we should decline to accept with resignation: it calls either for the application of new methods or for the intensification of those among the existing methods that have been proved by experience to be most likely to succeed.

The methods upon which your Inspector-General has laid the greatest stress are improvement in the rural police and closer co-operation both with the public and with the other local officers of Government in the rural areas. The first of these two proposals involves financial considerations upon which I am not in a position to pronounce. The latter is one which I have formerly stressed and have no hesitation in stressing again. The staff of the mofussil thanas is not numerous enough to prevent such crimes unaided. Their primary duties are to investigate crimes committed—to keep watch as far as possible on the more notorious bad characters, and by systematic enquiry and record to locate and deal with the plague spots of crime in their areas; how much they can achieve over and above these duties depends on the help they receive from the rural police and upon the possibility of organising public support in the prevention and suppression of crime. It is for this reason that I again emphasise the need for mutual co-operation.

I do not suggest, for example, that Presidents of Union Boards should attempt to assume responsibility for the investigation of crime—far from it—nor that the Sub-Inspector should intrude himself into the working of village self-government—but I do say without hesitation that if co-operation between the two is to be effective each must be prepared to appreciate the difficulties of the other and do his part in his own sphere to assist the other; in the nature of things I am afraid it must often appear that the co-operation is onesided—that it is the President who has to make the more tangible contribution to the joint enterprise. The President is in direct charge of the chaukidari police, whose services are essential for the suppression of crime: the police officer, however wide his interests and sympathies, has a specialised duty to perform, and cannot effectively discharge it unless the resources of the rural police are placed at his disposal: if he does succeed in effecting a reduction of crime the results are by no means so obvious in the daily routine of life as is the task of the President in paying the chaukidars, keeping them up to the mark and seeing that their services are at the disposal of the daroga whenever they are required.

I am, nevertheless, convinced that the police officer who can, in addition to his specialist work, take an active and sympathetic interest in the lives and doings of the people of his area will, if only by the greater friendliness and mutual understanding thus promoted, greatly facilitate, and enhance the value of, his task as a specialist; I regard the continually rising standard of education in the police

force as a factor of great importance to be taken full advantage of from this point of view.

I have been glad to see from the Inspector-General's Report that there has been in response to my previous appeals a marked increase in the number of occasions on which the thana and supervising officers of the police, the local officers of Government and Presidents of Union Boards have met together informally to discuss their common interests. In the course of talks that I have had with Officers in the districts I have learnt with pleasure of instances where police officers of high rank have been able to find the time to come into closer personal contact with people in the rural areas, not only for the purpose of investigating crime, but for the wider purpose of knowing the country and establishing personal relations with the people. I realise that it is not easy: you cannot go back to the spacious days of the past when officers had the time to tour in a leisurely fashion without finding themselves over-burdened with work when they got back to their headquarters. Whatever modifications in routine may or may not be possible to lighten the burden of headquarters work, I am afraid that the officer who tours extensively under modern conditions will only be able to do so at the cost of burning the midnight oil when he gets back. But if, as I believe, the resultant increase in personal contact will eventually react towards the better organisation of the public against serious crime, the extra labour will in due course bring its own reward.

A subject on which I have addressed you before is that of crimes against women. So far as

statistics go—and as I have previously said, statistics are not necessarily a reliable guide in this matter—the last year as compared with 1934 shows a decrease of nearly 30 per cent. in such crimes of the more serious class but an increase of 7 per cent. in those of the less flagrant variety. I refer to this subject again particularly because in the course of the present year the legislature has taken steps to strengthen the hands of the executive in dealing with crimes of this nature. It is too early yet to foresee how far this enactment will operate to reduce the incidence of these crimes, and as I have said, statistics are a most uncertain guide as to the number of cases in which force or brutality has actually featured. I would, however, say a word with regard to the suggestion that has sometimes been made to the effect that this is a communal question. The figures that have been furnished show that among the offences against women reported during the past year, the victims were in 404 cases Muhammadan and in 333 cases Hindu. Those figures should suffice to show that women of both the major communities stand equally in need of protection. There will, doubtless, be many cases, and perhaps a majority of cases, where the stringent provisions of the new law may not be called into force; the punishment of whipping which in certain cases is now authorised was directed not against offences relating to women in general but solely against specific offences against women which may involve the elements of organised brutality or the commercial exploitation of vice. Where those features are present Government are entitled to

expect that right-minded men of whatever community will support the infliction of a punishment which is considered to be an effective deterrent.

If the knowledge that this is so should reinforce your efforts I trust that the present year will show a further reduction in crimes of this nature.

I have confined myself to these two main points because I hope that the maintenance of all necessary measures against terrorism, coupled with the active measures of a constructive nature which Government and its officers are pursuing, may bring us nearer the time when the police may be left free to devote themselves without abnormal interference to the contest that must always continue against the perennial enemies of ordered society.

Finally, may I congratulate the force as a whole upon the smartness of this representative parade and the recipients of the decorations and rewards which I have now the pleasure of conferring.

His Excellency's Address at the Convocation of the Dacca University on 29th July 1936.

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I do not propose on this occasion to address you at length. We are shortly to have the pleasure of listening to Sir Jadu Nath Sarkar who this year delivers the Convocation Address and I have no intention of trespassing on his preserves. Let me, however, first acknowledge with gratitude your expression of thankfulness for the preservation of His Majesty the King-Emperor from an attempt as insensate as it was wicked. We do not yet know the full details of what happened, but the expressions of horror that this crime has evoked are a further proof of the affection that His Majesty inspires in every portion of the world. May I also express my appreciation of what you have been good enough to say regarding the extension of my term of office? I am giving away no secrets when I say that my decision to accept this extension and remain in office for a further period of 7 months was not made without considerable searching of heart and in deciding to accept I have been encouraged above all by the belief that I shall have the support of men of influence and good will throughout the Province.

I have also to thank you, Mr. Vice-Chancellor and your colleagues on the Court of this University for the honour you have done me in deciding to confer upon me the Degree of Doctor of Laws

honoris causa. I am proud to be associated with the distinguished men whom you have honoured in past years and in the present year in this manner.

This year, as usual, has brought changes in the staff of the University and while we regret the loss of good friends, able scholars and devoted teachers, I observe with pleasure that they have passed on to higher appointments—a fact which itself testifies to the high standard which the University has set.

It is a matter of regret to me that I could not attend the All-India Economic Conference in person, but I welcomed the news that the University had taken the leading part in its organization. Universities, if I may say so, can contribute little of good either to themselves or to the country by engaging in the rough and tumble of politics; but in the serious study of problems of economics and of political history they can both maintain an active contact with the every-day problems that all Governments, whatever their complexion, are called upon to face and render the most valuable service by lifting such problems from the realm of electoral polemics to that of dispassionate and single-minded study. A like consideration, I think, attaches particular value to the work that you are now doing in the compilation of a history of Bengal. Whether or not history is, or can ever become, a science is a matter of controversy upon which I do not propose to enter; but this I can safely say that a true knowledge, based upon scholarly research, of the growth, traditions and culture of a people, is an essential part of the equipment of those who would aspire to direct the future of that people. I hope

that among those who are carrying on these researches some will be able to concentrate their attention on the economic history of Bengal. This is a subject which, studied superficially, is apt to give rise to strong feelings that must of necessity colour the point of view of the student. I feel, however, that there is all the more need for a truly dispassionate and scholarly study which will present in its true colours and in its true proportions the real economic history of the province that for so long was recognised as the treasure-house of India.

In regard to science, I am glad to hear that your laboratories have made contributions of a high order to the study of agriculture, and I wish I were in a position to make a definite announcement regarding the furtherance of your activity in the matter of soil research. Unfortunately I am not, but I may express the hope that the year to come may find either the University or the Government that will then be responsible, in a position to devote to this subject the funds which its importance justifies.

On the subject of finance in general, you will not, I know, expect me at the present stage, to make any pronouncement. I have never concealed my view that it is most unsatisfactory for a University to have to live from hand to mouth dependent at every stage upon fresh allotments of funds from the Government of the province. On the other hand, the actual extent of its needs and the degree to which Government are in a position to meet them, is a matter which at the moment forms the subject of a special investigation, and it would be

improper for me to commit myself to any further expression of opinion at this stage.

To you, students and graduates of the University, I would on this occasion only commend the eloquent words of encouragement and advice that your Vice-Chancellor has addressed to you. It may well be that in the years to come you will not find opportunities opening up easily along the traditional lines to which you have been accustomed to look. But the more I see of rural Bengal, the more I feel that its people deserve and will repay in their own manner all that you can give them of leadership and service.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Unveiling
of the portrait of the late Sir C. C. Ghose
on 14th August 1936.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

As President of this Society no less than as Governor of Bengal, I appreciate the invitation that has been extended to me to unveil the memorial portrait of Sir Charu Chunder Ghose and to join in this tribute to his memory. It is indeed appropriate that his memory should be perpetuated in the rooms of the Society of which he was a distinguished member and of which for two successive terms he was the President.

The late Sir Charu Chunder was an eminent judge and a prominent citizen of this Province. His early career was brilliant, both during the period of his legal training and also during his twelve years of practice at the Calcutta Bar. When in 1919 he came to occupy a position on the Bench, he brought to it a high reputation for skill in legal matters together with independence of thought and impartiality of judgment. Four times during the years in which he occupied his seat upon the Bench, he was appointed to officiate as Chief Justice of Bengal in the temporary absence of the permanent holder of that office; and that fact is, I think, a sufficient testimony to his knowledge and ability and to the trust that was placed in him by persons of all classes and opinions.

It was not however in his capacity as a Judge that it was my privilege to know him best. It was

when, only a month after he had retired from the Bench at the age of sixty, he became a temporary Member of the Executive Council of the Province that I first came into close contact with him and could personally appreciate his many qualities. That episode in his career was, however, as you know, unfortunately cut short by ill health and he died some few months after laying down the office which he had held for so brief a period.

That he could at the age of sixty, after fifteen years of exacting work on the Bench, take up almost immediately such widely different duties in the executive sphere, is a tribute to the broadness of his outlook and catholicity of his interests. He did so, as I am in the best position to know, entirely from a sense of public duty. Such a man was fitly a member and fitly President of this Society whose scope embraces the study of "whatever is performed by Man or produced by Nature" within the borders of the Asiatic Continent.

The passing of Sir Charu Chunder two years ago removed from the stage of public affairs in the Province a figure well known and much respected, who had given of his best in service to this country.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now unveil the memorial portrait of this distinguished son of Bengal.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Bengal Provincial Boy Scouts Association on 21st August 1936.

GENTLEMEN, •

The reports which have just been laid before us indicate that the scout movement in this province is still steadily advancing. During my tours in the districts and also in Calcutta and Darjeeling I have seen displays given by the local scout troops and have been very favourably impressed by the efficiency with which they were carried out. Last May, I was present at the close of the Jackson Shield Competition in Darjeeling and was impressed by the enthusiasm of the fourteen teams taking part. From what I myself have seen of it as well as from what has been said here to-day, I am assured that scouting is making substantial progress in Bengal.

There is one point however concerning the progress of the movement on which I wish to say a word or two. Scouting is not the only youth movement in this province, and there is always the danger, when movements of a similar character are trying to spread, that they will tend to be looked upon as rivals. I should be extremely sorry if, in furthering the scout movement, we were thought to be purposely and unreasonably trying to injure any other movement with objects similar to our own. As you know, I am both the Chief Scout for Bengal and the Mahapalak of the Bratacharis—both of which positions I value highly. The two organisations have similar ideals though their methods of approach are different: they are, I

believe, capable of living side by side in the districts of Bengal without rivalry or jealousy. At the same time there is no reason for either of them to restrict its normal activities for fear of harming the other. The advance of one does not mean the retreat of the other. Their ideals being in many respects the same, the furtherance of either movement must be made to help the cause of both.

The figures of the Census for last year show that we have again an increase in the number of scouts in the province and that there were twenty-five per cent. more scouts than in the previous year. Now that the movement is going forward with some momentum we have an opportunity of reviewing our organisation and activities with a critical eye. I myself find no great scope for criticism, but there are a few points which I think that we should at this stage bear in mind. I think for example that we should realise that an increase in numbers is not the only kind of increase that we should look for. We should make an effort to increase the scope of our activities and the interest which every scout can take in the movement. We should go beyond the classroom and school-yard, where the very necessary drill and instruction are provided. We should make an effort to get out into the open air, and to see that our scouts know the countryside and know how to live in it. Last May there was a hike undertaken by Rovers in the hills round Darjeeling which proved a great success. There is no need to go to Darjeeling for a hike or for a period of camp life under canvas, and I hope that with the help provided by the Grant which Government has made for Rural Development there will

be a great deal of camping and of hiking in the coming cold weather down here in the plains of Bengal.

I am glad to know that the camp site at Ganganagar is being used so much. We are fortunate in having some more of the Government Grant to run these training camps both at Ganganagar and at other centres in the province. I hope that, when men are chosen for training in these camps, it will be remembered that the scoutmasters of the future will be expected more and more to take part in an outdoor life of leadership and comradeship; and I trust that the right type of person for this training, and for this kind of life will be selected.

Last year at the annual meeting I asked for an increase in the number of scouts in the province. Well, we have been able to record an increase greater than we have had for some years. During the coming year I look for an increase not only in numbers but in the breadth of scouting activities. And I believe that my expectations in this respect will not be unfulfilled.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Rally and Competition of Darjeeling Boy Scouts on 19th October 1936.

It is a pleasure to witness once more the keenness which you bring to your scouting in Darjeeling. I am afraid that this meeting has unavoidably clashed with the Speech Day of one of the schools and for that reason, I am told, there is not so large a gathering here as usual. Nevertheless the gathering looks to me a fairly large one; your Local Association is, indeed, one of the largest in the province and it seems to me that it matches its enthusiasm to its numbers.

Here in Darjeeling this year you have had, in the provincial Jackson Shield Competition, an opportunity of studying some of the best scouting from other parts of the province. You have also been able to meet the scoutmasters from the other local associations and to discuss with them the problems which affect the whole of the movement. You have also had in the course of the year a large party of Rover Scouts who came up from the plains to tour round the district and some of the competitors in the Jackson Shield themselves on their way down to the plains walked a short distance in your hills and were pleased with what they saw.

In some sense during this year Darjeeling has been a centre of scout activity for the whole province. To your visitors you have extended your hospitality in true scout fashion, and I trust also that you have learnt by what you have seen

and heard. I am hoping that in future the scouts of this province will have more and better opportunities of meeting one another, not only in the set competitions, but in outdoor activities in general.

You have had a long and tiring day and if the rain will only hold off you have still a display to give, so I will not detain you any longer. I would, however, like once more to thank the scout and cubmasters for the hard work they have put in, and the District Commissioner and members of the Local Association for the time and energy they have spared to maintain so active a scout organisation in this district.

***His Excellency's Reply to the addresses
presented at Rangpur on 31st October
1936.***

Before I proceed to reply in some detail to the addresses which you have presented, let me express my appreciation of your sentiments of loyalty and devotion to the throne and person of His Majesty the King-Emperor and let me thank you for the cordial welcome that you have extended to me both as his representative and personally. It gives me great pleasure to be able to pay a personal visit to the headquarters of your district—a pleasure in fact which is undiluted even by the somewhat formidable series of problems that you have presented me with this morning. You will perhaps not misunderstand me if I interpret these addresses not so much as a statement of requests to which you expect an early and favourable answer, but rather as a review of the problems and needs of your district and your Associations. Many of these problems are of long standing and some only are capable of finding an early solution. If I attempted to explain in detail my views and those of my advisers upon all the questions you have raised I should be making exacting demands both upon your patience and upon the time at my disposal. Let me assure you however that in the period for which your addresses have been before me, I have spared no pains to see that each one of your requests has been examined with reference to all the available material relating to it, and have attempted to satisfy myself that such action as is possible in the circumstances has been or will be taken.

I make no apology for beginning my reply with a reference to jute. Two of your addresses have referred to the importance of this commodity. Jute—as I understand the situation—is the key to many of your economic problems, whether you be landlords whose income has shrunk so seriously during the last six years, or whether your interests are bound up with the problem of employment either in Government service or through the avenue of vocational training, or with matters of detail such as the incidence of taxation on tobacco—which is not I believe a matter of very serious importance. In so far as the price of jute affects fundamentally your common welfare, my Government claim, and claim I believe with reason, that the measures that they have taken with regard to jute have made a substantial contribution to your interests—and I believe, on the whole, as substantial a contribution as could possibly be made having regard to the disastrous fall in world prices as a whole. It is impossible to hope that so long as world prices remain so much below the level of a few years ago, the price of jute alone can rise to its old time figure; but from a careful study of the course of the prices of this commodity during the last three years I am personally convinced that the policy of voluntary restriction so far undertaken has, in spite of disturbing factors, maintained the prices of jute at a general level substantially higher than they would have attained had that policy not been undertaken. It is for this reason that upon a most exhaustive consideration of the agricultural and commercial position my Government have decided to continue the policy of restriction next year; it will be their

object to produce, as compared with the year 1934, the same reduction in area, namely three annas, as has in fact been brought about in the current year. I would impress upon all of you the fundamental importance of this policy in its bearing upon many of the problems that you have raised.

You, the landholders of Rangpur, have suffered grievously from contraction of your income and the consequent enhancement of the burden of your past debts. Your request that Government should assist you in the amicable reduction of these debts, by raising and guaranteeing a large scale loan, has received the anxious consideration of my Government : but they have come to the conclusion—I think the unavoidable conclusion—that in view of the difficulty they have themselves experienced in obtaining finance on reasonable terms for Court of Wards estates with whose financial position they are fully acquainted, they would not be justified in pledging the public revenues on the security of estates as to whose true financial position they are largely in the dark. They are strengthened in this conclusion by the fact that they have no evidence of concerted efforts on the part of the zamindars to raise funds on due security and in the open market. Moreover the implications of a policy of large scale loans to zamindars or of granting a moratorium to zamindars in general as distinct from Wards Estates are too far reaching to justify embarking on such a policy on the eve of the introduction of responsible Government. My Government feel however that if the zamindars as a class shoulder their political responsibilities and exert their legitimate influence, it should not

be impossible for them to safeguard their interests under the new regime. That is a course which might well redound to the benefit both of the zamindars themselves and of the community as a whole. Such a course would also tend to ensure that due consideration would be given by the future Government to any sound scheme of legislation which the zamindars themselves might put forward as regards conciliation of their debts.

The economic pressure on all classes of the community has rendered considerably more acute the desire for employment in Government service or for vocational training to expand the scope of employment in private life. With regard to the remarks of the Muhammadan Association on the subject of Government service, I observe that the percentage of Muhammadans in the ministerial establishment in the Rangpur Collectorate is above the prescribed minimum (being 37·3 per cent.) while the District Judge has been asked to accelerate the rate of recruitment of Muhammadans in order to counteract the unavoidable check to progress caused purely by accidental circumstances.

To the members of the Kshatriya Samiti I may point out that as a result of a recent review of the situation by Government, it has been decided that in one out of every four temporary vacancies in the ministerial staff of this district a candidate from the backward communities shall be appointed. As regards the public services in general the rules reserving facilities both for Muhammadans and Scheduled Castes are no doubt known to you, and you may rely on Government to keep a watchful

eye on their enforcement and 'periodically to review their results.

You have rightly however laid great stress on the problem of unemployment as a whole and the need of vocational training as a remedy. In pursuance of a scheme started in 1932, four industrial demonstration parties dealing with jute weaving, bell metal, umbrella-making and shoe-making have worked in the Rangpur Technical School or at Lalmanirhat for some 6 or 8 months during the present year and, as soon as it can conveniently be arranged, more parties will be sent to this district. Vocational training however is of limited use unless practical assistance can be afforded to set up trained men in small industries. With the object of facilitating this process my Government have recently announced a scheme for an Industrial Credit Corporation in respect of which they are prepared to undertake substantial financial obligations and which, it is hoped, will be in a position to finance small industrial enterprises with greater facility than is possible for a department of Government. It is our intention to put this scheme into operation at an early date provided the requisite non-official co-operation is forthcoming.

If I have dwelt at some length upon the economic aspect of your problems it is because I feel that it is more important to explain my views and those of my Government on these broad underlying questions than to address you in great detail upon matters of primarily departmental concern, however great their local importance may be.

I appreciate the importance that your District Board attaches to matters of public health, sanitation and communication: I feel indeed that the establishment of the Rural Health Organisation in Bengal coupled with the development of progressive activities by Union Boards has done more perhaps than any other measure to ameliorate conditions in the mufussil. But while effecting improvements, these organisations have revealed the enormous extent of the work that is yet to be done. The District Board address testifies to this in its requests for additional funds for health circles, for Kala-azar treatment, for rural dispensaries, for leprosy treatment and for propaganda.

Among the specific requests which you make with regard to Public Health is one for an increased grant from Government for the opening of additional health circles, and I understand that in fact you have as an experimental measure divided one of your thanas—that of Ulipur—into two health circles. I recognise that thanas may vary greatly in size and population, but I must make it clear that my Government are not in a position to sanction extra expenditure on one thana without incurring commitments all over the province. There are in several Eastern Bengal districts thanas comparable in area and population with that of Ulipur and without a complete change of the basis on which grants are made it is not possible to give special treatment to one area only.

With respect to Kala-azar treatment I am informed that the cash grant to your District Board in the year 1935-36 amounts to Rs. 6,000 out of a total of Rs. 55,000 available for the whole province,

and that you also have a share in the distribution of Kala-azar specifics. My Government have succeeded in keeping up their total expenditure on this object in spite of stringency but are not in a position to increase the share allotted to your district.

As regards the application of Assam regulations relating to Kala-azar I would advise you to address Government specifically through the usual channels.

As regards dispensaries it has been possible so far this year to sanction grants to three thana dispensaries and to two village dispensaries at the rate of Rs. 500 and Rs. 200 respectively per year, but I realise that there are 6 village dispensaries still on the waiting list and recommended for grants for the first time this year. I can only say that their claims will be considered in the light of such funds as may be found available.

The expenditure of Government upon leprosy in the province in the present year amounts to over Rs. 87,000 but it has not been possible to allot funds directly to districts save for the one district of Bankura where a small contribution has been made as an experimental measure.

Similarly I can see no prospect of grants to individual districts for tuberculosis, but owing to the generosity of a citizen of Calcutta Government hope to be in a position to establish and maintain a Tuberculosis Sanatorium in a suitable climate from which the province as a whole will derive definite benefit.

In the same way Government's contribution towards maternity and child welfare must be hoped

for not district by district but in the form of some subvention to a central organisation: there is at present under consideration a scheme which would enable a Training School for health welfare workers to be reopened under the auspices of the Indian Red Cross Society: if this can be done the school will be in a position to maintain a regular supply of fully trained health workers for those local organisations which need them and agree to employ them.

I look forward to visiting your laboratory of which I have heard good accounts and shall have much pleasure in making a contribution to its resources from moneys at my personal disposal.

I have heard with interest of the enterprise of your Union Board Associations in undertaking cinema propaganda and, now that their stability is ensured, see no reason why they should not with a view to this and other work renew their request for assistance.

I am aware of the importance to public health of proper drainage and in particular of the revival of the dried up rivers.

There is also likely to be little disagreement with your suggestion that the whole problem of reviving the waterways in this part of the country should be examined comprehensively with a view to utilising the waters of the Teesta river. Such a scheme is however a vast project, and before it can be envisaged in detail it will be essential to have a contour survey made not only of your district but of several other districts in Northern Bengal. The programme of such contour surveys has already been started in Western Bengal, and, as

at present advised, my Government are of opinion that the survey in Northern Bengal should not be undertaken until Western and Central Bengal have first been surveyed. Thereafter it is hoped that the turn of Northern Bengal will come and a comprehensive examination of the problem will be possible.

In the meantime however it would be most regrettable if improvements which are possible in local areas were delayed by local opposition unless such opposition were supported by the best available technical advice, and this brings me to the vexed question of your difference of opinion with the district of Bogra. I am bound to say that after giving careful consideration to the completely impartial opinion of the technical advisers of Government I do feel personally that, whatever may have been the merits of the original scheme, the scheme as now modified for diverting to the lower Karatoya river some part of the water of the Katakhalī can no longer be opposed on sound technical grounds. The Irrigation Department of my Government has taken all possible steps to remove any genuine causes of apprehension on the part of the district of Rangpur and Government are convinced that on the balance of convenience this particular scheme is desirable in the interests of this part of the province as a whole: under these circumstances it would give me great satisfaction to go away from Rangpur feeling that this unfortunate disagreement between you and your neighbours in Bogra had been removed.

With regard to your difficulties in the matter of communications I may point out that so far as

bridging is concerned it is the intention of Government, if they can capitalize a part of the Motor Vehicles Tax, to construct one major bridge or a series of small bridges in each division: the Charalkata bridge in which you are keenly interested has been included in this programme. There are also the recurring grants from the Motor Vehicles Tax Fund and in those grants you regularly receive your due share. But as regards grants from the Road Fund I should make the position clear: these are given not on the basis of districts but on the basis of through communications. In your case you have benefited by the inclusion, in the skeleton system of trunk roads for Bengal, of the road from Bogra to Bihar: if, as I hope, this proposal receives the approval of the Government of India it should in due course confer material benefits upon the South Eastern portion of your district.

Before I proceed to deal with Municipal problems proper I may refer to one scheme which is common to the Municipality and the District Board, namely the reclamation of the Ghose's and Skrine canals. This being a project which is not exclusively for the benefit of the rural area, is not one that can be financed from the special Government of India grant for rural areas. The scheme however will come under examination by the technical department together with others; but I would suggest that in the furtherance of such projects the example set by Brahmanbaria of what can be achieved by voluntary labour deserves your serious consideration.

Turning now to purely Municipal problems I observe that your scheme for water-supply has

not yet reached the stage of the submission of a definite project: I would commend to your consideration the possibility of having a modest scheme drawn up by the Public Health Department the financing of which can then be a matter for practical discussion.

Your suggestion that you may require to apply for a loan for the improvement of your roads will doubtless require further consideration in the light of your needs as to waterworks, and you will not, I am sure, expect me to pronounce an opinion at this stage on that matter.

I have noted with pleasure what you have said regarding your success in the control of epidemics and I congratulate you on your decision to erect an isolation ward out of the money returned to you from the Silver Jubilee Fund. My Government is not financially in a position to make a grant toward the X-Ray plant at your hospital, but I look forward to seeing your hospital and shall endeavour to find from moneys at my personal disposal some amount, though small, to assist in meeting its more pressing needs.

Education is a matter to which three addresses to-day have given well deserved prominence. As regards the Biss Scheme in the Municipality doubtless your own financial difficulties were responsible for your ceasing since 1927-28 to realise the cess imposed during more prosperous years. I draw your attention to this point because it has resulted in your losing during the three years ending in April 1935 grants of over Rs. 7,600 from Government which would have

been paid had the Municipality found itself in a position to spend its full quota.

Both the District Board and the Municipality have attached importance to the improvement of the local Girls' School and I observe that this is a request most sympathetically viewed by the local officers of Government. Government itself long ago accorded administrative approval of an extra grant of Rs. 137 per month to this school but neither this nor the desired assistance towards capital improvements has so far been found financially possible. I have no doubt that the Department of Education will press their claims for funds for this and other grants of a similar nature but I am afraid my Government are not in a position to consider the question of provincialising this school or establishing it as a training school for female teachers. Similarly it has not been possible to hold out hopes of an increased grant to the Carmichael College which in common with other zilla colleges could admittedly be improved by further assistance.

In the matter of the Bailey Govinda Lal Technical School I am not in a position to add to what you perhaps already know. In spite of having accepted in principle the decision of successive Retrenchment Committees to deprovincialise the school, Government are continuing to maintain it upon its present basis: but it has been impossible owing to lack of funds to carry out the expensive scheme prepared some 7 years ago for its radical improvement.

The address of the Kshatriya Samiti has drawn attention to the difficulties of students in utilising

the hostel for their community attached to the Zilla School. I have heard with concern that this useful adjunct to the school is lying closed, and if a representation is submitted to the authorities concerned my Government will carefully consider the question of making the hostel available to Scheduled Caste boys free of all charges other than those involved in messing arrangements.

I have been at some pains to examine in detail the proportion between scholarships, stipends and other facilities afforded to members of the Scheduled Castes and those afforded specifically to other communities: from the detailed statement that I have had placed before me, I have come to the conclusion that the special facilities accorded to the Scheduled Castes, if taken as a whole, are not disproportionate to the facilities reserved for other communities, and an increase in them can only be looked for as part of such general expansion of such facilities as the future may provide.

Finally, I have to deal with certain requests which concern particular associations.

MEMBERS OF THE MUHAMMADAN ASSOCIATION—

I note with satisfaction the decision, may I say the wise decision, of your members to give a fair trial to the Reformed Constitution on the basis of the communal award: in reply to the apprehensions you have expressed on that score I need merely refer to the emphatic and repeated declarations of His Majesty's Secretary of State that it is not the intention of Government to make any alteration in

the communal Award unless it is desired by the communities themselves and that further no such alteration could be made without the specific consent of Parliament.

MEMBERS OF THE KSHATRIYA SAMITI—

Representing as you do so large a proportion of the population in this part of Bengal you have raised certain issues peculiar to yourselves. With some of them, for example, the question of appointments and educational facilities I have already dealt. With regard to your representation on local bodies I must observe that your most effective remedy lies in the intelligent use of the franchise which you enjoy. It is not, in the opinion of my Government, possible to reserve a proportion of seats for every community, but in practice it has been their policy to secure by nomination the representation of scheduled caste communities on local bodies wherever the election has failed to produce this result.

You refer further to the difficulties of members of your community in contesting seats for the Bengal Upper House, but you have not perhaps realised that the 30 representatives which the scheduled castes will return to the lower house will be able to secure their quota of representation by indirect election to the Upper Chamber.

As regards the Jute Committee the number of representatives of growers of jute in Bengal is limited to four and, the problems of the grower being much the same whatever the district to which he belongs, the aim of Government will necessarily

be to select persons who are best able to represent the interests of the growers as a whole. Representation by community or district will not be possible.

Lastly, I must refer to your request for military employment for members of your community in a Kshatriya Battalion. While acknowledging the services rendered by your community I am bound to say that I have been unable to find in the records of Government a promise for the formation of a special Kshatriya Battalion in peace time; and indeed such a promise would not have been within the competence of the Government of Bengal of its own authority to make.

That, gentlemen, concludes what I have to say this morning upon the subjects raised by your addresses. I fear that in spite of my efforts to be brief I have already exceeded the limits of conciseness, in my endeavour to deal with the principal matters that you have brought to my notice. I shall look forward in the course of interviews to discussing with some of you in greater detail the problems that are exercising your minds and hope as a result of my visits in the locality to carry away with me a clearer impression of your district and the problems of your daily lives.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Bogra on 8th November
1936.***

GENTLEMEN, •

Let me thank you at the outset for the warm welcome that you have accorded to me as the representative of the King-Emperor in this Province and for the sentiments of loyalty and affection that you have expressed to his Person and Throne. In the times of change and uncertainty through which we are passing I feel with you that in the Person of His Majesty and the Throne of the British Empire we possess a true guide to our progress and a firm protection for our ordered liberties.

I have noted with pleasure your desire for co-operation, your appreciation of the services which the local officers of Government in this district have rendered to the cause of rural uplift, and your realization of the need for comprehensive planning and co-ordinated effort in the work of economic reconstruction. I feel sure that, whoever may plan policy, the Governments of the future will need to a greater degree than ever leadership on the part of their local officers in the inspiration and direction of local effort, and I welcome the fact that in proportion as their task of combating disorder has been lightened, the responsible officers of Government have themselves devoted more and more of their energies to work of construction. I can assure you that the means by which the usefulness and continuity of such work may be enhanced is a matter that is engaging at the moment my own attention and that of my Government.

Let me now turn to some of the more pressing problems that your addresses have raised.

Foremost among them in your minds is the question of reviving the dead Karatoya river. You will have seen what I said at Rangpur a few days ago on this subject. In the course of my stay there I learnt that a further representation had been submitted by the Rangpur District Board on questions of technical detail which is now receiving the consideration of my Government. I have however been assured by responsible opinion in Rangpur that opposition from that district will not be pressed if after consideration of this further representation the impartial experts of Government are still in favour of the scheme. I trust that it may be possible for this happy result to be attained, and if an agreement can be reached which commends itself to purely technical opinion I trust that the people of this district will accept in no grudging spirit such restrictions as the experts may feel obliged to place upon the scheme with a view to removing the apprehensions of the people of Rangpur. The surest way to success in a matter of this kind is to act advisedly and to avoid the risk of a set-back.

Next perhaps in order of importance from your point of view is the question of enlarging the size of your district, and here let me say that to be merely large is for a district by no means an unmixed blessing. I realise however in your case that the question is closely related to that of increasing your financial resources, and I am assured that all sections of opinion in Bogra district feel strongly on the point. The question is one in which many

Departments of Government are involved and the possibility of transferring particular areas has been the subject of enquiry in the past: quite apart however from the attitude of Government itself I must observe that none of your neighbouring District Boards is likely to relish the prospect of surrendering any area in which the cess collected exceeds the local expenditure, while on the other hand your own District Board would have nothing to gain by assuming responsibility for an area in which the local expenditure exceeded the cess. So far as I am aware the question has never been examined in detail from that point of view, though that, I am sure, would be a very relevant consideration.

The real answer at the present stage is, I am convinced, that this is a matter on which an opinion cannot with advantage be expressed at the present constitutional juncture. Within six months from now, to take the Muhammadan constituencies only, your district will have four representatives in the Provincial Legislative Assembly. The Subdivision of Gaibandha will have two and the Subdivision of Nator one. There will be further representatives of larger constituencies, including these areas, among the general, special and scheduled caste seats, and it is clear that with such representation based upon a very extensive franchise, both you and your neighbours will have an effective means of making your opinions felt.

Closely linked up with your welfare in general is the very pressing problem of agricultural indebtedness. I am gratified to know that

progress has already been made with the work of establishing Boards for voluntary conciliation: you may rest assured that my Government intend to work this Act in earnest for the benefit of the population as a whole: in token of that determination steps have already been taken to recruit and train 63 special officers in addition to a further number of officers to be set free by the postponement of temporary settlement operations. With the staff thus obtained it is intended to put the Act into full working order at once in the 16 districts of Bengal that have not been affected by the disastrous scarcity of crops last year.

Let me make it clear that debtors owing money to Co-operative Societies are not excluded from relief under the Act: what has been done is to prescribe for the settlement of such debts special conditions to ensure that such relief shall not exceed what is reasonable having regard to the circumstances in which the loans were granted. No settlements between a society and its members can get over the fact that jointly and severally they are liable to the Central Banks for the fulfilment, to the utmost of their ability, of obligations equitably incurred; to ignore this consideration would bring down in ruin the whole structure of co-operative organisation that has yet to play a vital part in the welfare of the rural population.

I have observed with interest the practical attitude which both the Municipality and the Muhammadan Association* have taken up with respect to Primary Education, in that both have

appreciated the necessity of self-help. The original scheme of the Municipality, coming as it did in the worst years of depression, has been long delayed, and I understand that a revised scheme is under discussion with the departmental authorities, which will receive the due consideration of my Government upon being brought into conformity with the views of the Department of Education.

The reference of the National Muhammadan Association to the scheme of Rural Primary Education implies, I take it, a realization that the cess would have to be paid and would be worth paying willingly. It is the intention of my Government to bring that Act into force before long in a selected area where the economic position of the people and the strength of local feeling on the subject are such as to warrant expectations of a favourable development, and though your district may not be the first to be selected, the significance of the views expressed to-day by a representative association will not be ignored.

In your request however for the establishment of a college at Bogra you are asking, I am afraid, for a reversal of a long accepted policy. Government have, it is true, established a certain number of colleges but the object in view has been that they should serve as models to be followed by private enterprise in other cases, when private benefactors of the locality are both satisfied of the necessity and prepared to meet it. As however the colleges at Rangpur, Rajshahi and Pabna are accessible from your district, there might well be some hesitation in establishing yet another at Bogra.

With regard to the maintenance and improvement of the Edward Industrial School from public revenues my Government are so far in sympathy with your desires as to have continued maintaining this institution from Provincial revenues in spite of having accepted in principle the recommendations of successive Retrenchment Committees to the contrary. The desirability of modernising and improving the school has also been recognised but lack of finance has made such improvement on a large scale impossible.

I understand however that a scheme for the introduction of a motor mechanics class in the Edward Industrial School, which has been under consideration by Government, has received their administrative approval. Should the proposal to finance the recurring cost be accepted by Government as a whole, it is hoped to bring it into operation at an early date and thus to effect, if only in a restricted manner, some improvement in the technical training available at Bogra.

In common with rural Bengal as a whole you appreciate the urgent need for improvement of water supplies, and schemes from the Municipality and the District Board are at present engaging the attention of my Government.

The revised scheme for the Municipality at a cost of 56,000 rupees for its initial stages and to be completed at a total cost of 83,000 rupees is clearly an improvement from the financial point of view on the previous higher estimates; but I gather that you are still unable to contemplate financing such a scheme except by the aid of a

Government grant of one third and a Government loan of the remainder. The policy of making such grants had to be kept in abeyance for financial reasons; and though nobody, I think, would deny the value of such grants in stimulating local effort, it does not rest with me or my advisers at the present juncture to bind the Government of next year to resume that useful practice. So far however as continuity of administrative policy can be secured by the permanent departments of Government you may rest assured that the department of Local Self-Government will not fail to urge the importance of reviving such grants-in-aid.

At the same time I must remind you that having regard to the history of the experimental boring that was financed by Government as long ago as 1924, at a cost of some 12,800 rupees, but has not been exploited in practice, Government will need to be convinced of your determination, on such conditions as may be settled, to carry the scheme through.

The District Board, I am glad to see, are preparing to take advantage of the recently liberalized policy of Government in the matter of loans for acceleration of improved water-supply: their application for a loan is still under the consideration of my Government. The particulars regarding the financial position of the District Board were not, if I may say so, marshalled and expressed in a very convincing fashion and I can only hope that the further enquiries that have been set on foot will disclose a more prosperous position than the figures submitted might at first sight seem to indicate.

The District Board address as well as that of the National Muhammadan Association also makes mention of your desire for the location of a permanent District and Sessions Judge at Bogra. This is a question which has been before my Government for several years. Hitherto, however, it has been felt that the volume of work would not justify the posting of a separate Judge in this district; but in order to lessen the inconveniences which the public may have felt, various facilities have been provided and some part of the powers of a District and Sessions Judge has been given to authorities already resident in Bogra. When necessary an Additional District and Sessions Judge has been posted here, but even so the amount of work has not in the opinion of my Government made it necessary for his post to become permanent.

I may add that steps have been taken to strengthen the ministerial staff of the District Judge's office with a view to expedition of work and clearance of arrears—but the creation of a separate judgeship would involve expenditure which may well not commend itself to my Government in comparison with the many more pressing needs that they have to meet.

Attention has been drawn by the National Muhammadan Association to the percentage of Muhammadans at present employed in the Bogra Collectorate—which is at the moment slightly less than 33 per cent. I must observe that temporary variations in the Muhammadan proportion in the permanent cadre are apt to arise owing to the promotion of temporary men; but I have examined

the question with care and am satisfied that appropriate measures have been taken so to adjust the communal proportion in the temporary posts as to produce an equitable result in the permanent cadre in future. As I have observed on previous occasions, the prescribed percentage is not a maximum and may be exceeded. I feel sure however that, in following the policy of recruiting really qualified men only, the responsible officers are serving the best ultimate interests of your community.

That, Gentlemen, concludes what I have to say as regards the specific questions that your addresses have raised. If my replies have been brief let me assure you that my study of the problems you have raised has nevertheless been careful and detailed and I have been very glad of this opportunity to acquaint myself at first hand with the achievements and requirements of your small but enterprising district. The presentation of these addresses has served to ensure not only that all the main problems with which you are concerned have been brought to the notice of the head of the administration but also that he has satisfied himself that they have been duly considered by his advisers. It is in that rather than in the replies given to particular points that the value of these addresses consists, and if I assure you that every question raised has been examined from this point of view by myself in consultation with my advisers I need make no further apology for not replying in detail on every subject that has been mentioned.

For myself this occasion has a special interest in that it is my last formal visit to a District under

the present Constitution and thus marks the end of a tradition. Under the present Constitution the Governor of Bengal shares with his colleagues in Government a personal responsibility covering the whole field of the provincial administration: though in fact he may, in regard to transferred subjects, be guided to the greatest possible degree by the advice of his Ministers, nevertheless he has a definite personal responsibility for all decisions taken. To such a Governor addresses covering the whole field of Government policy and administration have hitherto been legitimately presented: it has been in keeping with his responsibility that he should personally examine the facts and personally defend and explain the actions of Government.

Such is the present position and such it will remain for a few more months, but from the month of April next over the major part of the field of provincial administration the Governor will no longer have a personal responsibility for decisions on matters of policy taken by his Government.

Were I replying a year hence to these same addresses it is quite possible that in respect of most of the questions you have raised I should feel constrained to content myself with the mere observation that the matter in question would be brought to the notice of the Minister concerned, or I might convey, as the constitutional Head of the administration, the views or the decisions of my Cabinet. The custom of presenting addresses, covering the whole field of administration and setting forth all the needs of local bodies and associations is one that has become traditional and I imagine that that

tradition may persist in spite of the constitutional changes. How far however such a tradition will be consistent in the future with the conception of representative and responsible Government is another matter. I have no doubt that the Governors of the future will strictly interpret the injunctions of His Majesty in Council to do all that in them lies to secure good standards of administration: how far, however, it will be appropriate for the Governor personally to expound in detail the policy or achievements of his responsible Ministers, and how far his personal intervention may in future be legitimately requested in matters upon which his Ministry will be solely responsible to the Legislature are questions to which experience must provide the answer. I have said this much to-day because I doubt if even yet there has been a general realisation in this Province or indeed in India of the magnitude of the changes that are coming and their possible effects upon the day to day activities of Government.

You will shortly proceed to take your part in the election of representatives to the new Provincial Legislature, the composition of which will eventually determine the personnel of future Ministries, their outlook on the problems of the Province in general, and their attitude departmentally to the particular requirements of local areas. It is not for me or for any officer of Government to influence you in your choice as between parties or individuals but what I have said may bring home to you the reality and the magnitude of the responsibility that rests upon you.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Armistice
Day Dinner on 11th November 1936.***

Tonight is the fourth and I am afraid the last time that I have the privilege of being your guest at this annual gathering; may I say how much I have appreciated the way in which year after year you have admitted me to the brotherhood of these Armistice reunions.

If there is one occasion in the year dedicated to comradeship it is this. There used to be a song—though I have not heard it tonight perhaps it is just as well—about what was going to happen when this lamentable war was over. It went on—in a certain amount of detail that I had better not quote—about what certain people were going to tell the sergeant major: but so far as I know the sergeant major and his war time victims are to be found, on occasions like this, settling down together like the proverbial lion and the lamb, and all they are telling each other is what extraordinarily good fellows they are. Well, I like to feel at times like this that I am included in the atmosphere of good fellowship, and I must thank my friend Mr. Justice Panckridge and you all for giving me that feeling. After observing his genial presence and listening to his kindly words tonight we must all feel thankful that the guns and other engines of destruction failed to score a bull on a target so distinguished and, nowadays at any rate, so inviting.

The company tonight includes many men who have won distinction in varied walks of life

but I venture to think that nobody here tonight would surrender in exchange for any distinction the war medals that all of you are privileged to wear.

I know of a man—a temporary soldier—who at the end of the war left the army with quite a reasonable rank and a decoration for gallantry. I am not sure whether he is here tonight but as the saying goes “No names no pack drill” and I am not out for pack drill at my time of life, so I shall keep his name to myself. Well, this unnamed individual has one decoration that I believe he values as highly as any that he wears. It is a 1914-15 star and inscribed on the back of it is not “Major X”, or “Captain X” but just “Sapper X” and that is what makes it so valuable.

There is another decoration which every one of you wears, and it bears what I think must be the proudest inscription ever put upon a medal “The great war for civilization”. No doubt there have been times during these succeeding years when men have scoffed at that inscription as an empty phrase or even worse—but never forget that to the men of the empire who went into that war those words were the plain truth. To them and to you in those early days it was a clear issue between civilization and brute force—and men who staked everything on that issue have had something put into their lives that neither time nor disillusionment can efface: they have shared an experience that binds together all over the empire the comrades of the great war, and if in these times of change and confusion there is one generation of men among whom the

faith in individual liberty and free and ordered institutions still burns high, it is the generation of those who served the Empire in the great war.

Of course everyone knows that there were quite a lot of things that spoiled the war, and one of them, I understand, was a thing called the "offensive spirit"—I am not referring to the rum ration—but to what I imagine must have been a form of misplaced martial ardour, diminishing in intensity the nearer one approached the actual scene of events. That spirit provoked, I am told, especially in quiet sectors—and on the part of those whose comfort was chiefly affected, quite a good deal of offensive language. Well, whatever it was, I am sure it was a most reprehensible thing—and the trouble is that the offensive spirit in another sense of the word looks like spoiling the peace as well if people are not careful. I only wish some people could take a lesson from the army in this respect and one of the best ways of teaching them would, I suggest, be to give them a course of army boxing. I had the pleasure of seeing an army boxing tournament in Darjeeling two or three weeks ago, and I can't help thinking what a splendid training it would be for people who disturb the peace of the world to be taught clean fighting and good temper in the way that the army teach it.

We in Bengal owe a good deal to the army: quite apart from their steadying influence on the side of order, the addition of a few battalions came like a breath of fresh air into an atmosphere that was distinctly overheated; it wasn't just a question of so many rifles: there was more to it than that.

I have heard of people who have been surprised and almost aggrieved that military officers should have interested themselves in trying to make things brighter and healthier for the civil population and especially for the younger generation and I for one believe that men trained in the tradition of the army and placed in a position to spread that tradition in civil life and among the rising generation are a real asset to the country as a whole. We are fortunate in them : we are fortunate if I may say so in General Lindsay our District Commander ; those of us in Bengal who know what he has done are grateful for the active sympathy and interest that General Lindsay has displayed in the welfare of the younger generation.

We are looking forward this year to a pleasure that we had to forego a year ago—the annual visit of the Navy. We missed them badly last year though we understood quite well that they had a pressing engagement elsewhere and we shall welcome them all the more warmly this time.

Tonight is not a political occasion and we here are not directly responsible for the affairs of Europe and the world—but nobody who can recall the 11th of November 1918 can look at the world today without a sense of disappointment. In the days that followed the 11th of November 1918 men and women in the British Empire could believe that the shadow of fear had been lifted from the earth—and that the time had come to rebuild on better and more secure foundations. It is the tragedy of today that the spectre of fear is again stalking among the nations and while they pray earnestly for peace the

people of Britain have come to realize that they must be strong enough of arm to be able to face the future with confidence and to help in restoring confidence among others. I share with you all the hope that their efforts will succeed. For us in India there is a lesson to be learnt from what has happened in Europe: there is no more dangerous situation than one in which large masses of people are vaguely afraid. To be afraid of something definite may be a very good thing: to be in a state of fear without stopping to reason out what they are afraid of is a highly dangerous situation for mankind in the mass and it is the business of Governments to see that they don't get into that condition. If it is depravity that begets atrocities it is more often than not fear that inspires reprisals and once the vicious circle is closed it is not easily broken. Here in India we stand on the threshold of a great opportunity—a chance that Europe might well envy of seeing a continent of diverse races welded together in free and peaceful partnership. If it can be done, there will have been accomplished in India in two centuries an ideal that two thousand years of war have failed to bring to realization in Europe—but to do it demands that India shall have what Europe sometimes seems to lack—the protection and guidance of men strong enough to be unafraid themselves and to teach its peoples that ordering themselves lawfully they have nothing to fear. We have come to learn that the great war for civilisation did not end when the last shot was fired—it goes on still and demands of us and the generations

that are rising up to follow us the same spirit of service and comradeship that we have met to commemorate and renew tonight.

Gentlemen, in the course of his remarks in proposing this Toast Mr. Justice Panckridge suggested that the choice that had fallen upon him was not an altogether happy one. In his modesty he may be of that opinion: I am sure it is an opinion that no one else in this room shares. I cannot myself agree with the reason that he gave. Judicial detachment is an admirable—indeed an unimpeachable—doctrine but I know of no authority for seeking to deny to a Judge human attributes—least of all the privileges and obligations of a fellowship such as yours. As for the fact that he stands of necessity aloof from politics; well, so do I; and claiming him as I do as a comrade in the common service of our Sovereign, I am unfeignedly glad that he is here tonight and I thank him for what he has done to make me feel at home in this company. To you all I am deeply grateful for the kindness you have shown me not only tonight but on similar occasions in the past. And now I must bid you heartily farewell.

***His Excellency's Addresses to the
Recipients of the Indian Police Medal
at the Calcutta Police Parade, on 14th
November 1936.***

RAI SAHIB JAGAT BANDHU BHATTACHARYA,

You joined the Calcutta Police force in 1915 and some 11 years later you officiated as Inspector being confirmed in this position in 1929. You were awarded the title of Rai Sahib in 1931 both for your excellent record in dealing with revolutionary organisations and for your outstanding ability in the general discharge of your duties. Since then you have officiated for nearly five years as an Assistant Commissioner and have performed the more responsible work which has therefore fallen upon you with the same efficiency and ability. The award to you of the Indian Police Medal by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General is a fitting recognition of your services. I congratulate you.

SUB-INSPECTOR GOPAL CHANDRA ROY,

You entered the Calcutta Police as long ago as 1907 as a literate constable and were posted to the Special Branch. Shortly afterwards you were promoted to the rank of Head Constable, and since 1924 you have acted as a Sub-Inspector being confirmed in 1931. In the investigation and preparation for trial of several important cases your services have been of the utmost value

to Government. I now congratulate you on being awarded the Indian Police Medal by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General.

OFFICIATING HEAD CONSTABLE SEW NATH RAY,

On the 25th of June last you displayed outstanding courage and devotion to your duty in the arrest of a habitual and notorious pickpocket and burglar.

In recognition of the courage displayed by you on that occasion the Indian Police Medal for gallantry has been awarded to you. I congratulate you.

His Excellency's Speech at the Calcutta Police Parade on 14th November 1936.

MR. COLSON, OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE CALCUTTA POLICE FORCE,

I welcome this opportunity of again reviewing a large and representative parade of the Calcutta Police and the Fire Brigade, and I am glad to see a good attendance of the public who have the best of reasons for being interested in the efficiency and discipline of the City's Police. The police companies on parade, though larger than before, represent about one-eighth only of the total police force of Calcutta; but even a body of men eight times the size of the police on this parade is not too large to deal with the multifarious problems of security of person and property that arise in the second city of the Empire with a population of well over a million inhabitants.

I have been interested to learn that a Shield Competition for efficiency in drill, discipline and musketry has been inaugurated between the various companies of the armed branch and I congratulate the representatives of C Company now on parade on the success of that Company in the competition.

Your first aid work in St. John Ambulance has again earned you credit and I share your pleasure in the fact that in the last annual Provincial Competition the teams of the Calcutta Police won all the four trophies that were open to them.

The City of Calcutta has reason to congratulate itself and its police force on the continued absence, since I last addressed this parade, of

outbreaks of serious crime or disorder; no one is more happy than myself to record the fact that in spite of occasions when communal feelings were deeply stirred the city has been free from any serious manifestation of that most deplorable form of disturbance. For this, thanks are due not only to the police but to many individuals of influence and goodwill among the communities themselves and I gratefully acknowledge their services; but such men will be the first to agree with me that the existence of an efficient and impartial police force is the surest guarantee of their efforts being supported.

I referred last year to the special report then recently submitted on the organisation and cost of the Calcutta Police. I am now able to say that savings of about a lakh of rupees a year have been effected without loss of efficiency as a result of that investigation and of the more peaceful times that the last two years have witnessed. I am aware however that Calcutta is growing and suburban areas in which the force has not been expanded to meet increasing needs offer a tempting field to the thief and the burglar. Your Commissioner has made pointed reference to this problem in his reports to Government and it is one that will have to be examined.

There is no big city in the world that does not contain its element of hooligans and habitual criminals and Calcutta is no exception: it is interesting to see that during the year 1935 no fewer than 59 externed goondas were arrested after return to the city and 57 of them convicted by the courts: the particular watch on smuggling of arms resulted

in ten smugglers being dealt with and incidentally in the discovery in concealment of a certain number of the hooligans to whom I have just referred. It takes courage and skill to tackle some of these gentry and society has reason to be grateful to the men who track them down and bring them within the arm of the law.

Turning to what I may call the regulative aspect of police work I cannot let this occasion pass without expressing my appreciation of the work of the Traffic Advisory Committee.

In a city of the size of Calcutta where the most primitive and the most modern forms of transport compete for the roads, traffic problems go far beyond the scope of technical difficulty: progress is apt to be met by the dead weight of conservatism and attempts to advance too rapidly are apt to defeat themselves by the resentment that they may arouse. I have been glad to hear of the valuable assistance rendered by the Advisory Committee in dealing with these and other problems which so greatly concern the general safety and convenience of every day life.

I have noticed in the report of the Commissioner for the year 1935 the brief statement that during that year over 9,800 beggars were arrested in Calcutta of whom all but an insignificant proportion were discharged by the police or the courts—to resume of course their habitual occupation. So far as the police are concerned I realize that this is all that can at present be done, but the situation is not one that does credit to a great city. It is a problem that has attracted the attention of progressive and liberal-minded men and women for several years

and can only be solved by a concerted effort with the essential co-operation of the civic authorities: as I have said on a previous occasion, it is a problem that can never be solved by passing by on the other side of the road and I venture to express the hope that the civic authorities to whom this matter has been referred by my Government will face the question in a spirit of realism and co-operation. Any practical steps that can be taken to deal with this evil will lighten a burden on the public no less than on the police.

If in what I have said this morning I have addressed myself to certain aspects of your work in which the general public are closely concerned, do not think that I fail to appreciate the volume and quality of painstaking and successful labour that goes on in the various departments of the Calcutta Police organisation. Such activities as well as the merits of individual officers have been brought to my notice by the reports of your Commissioner and have formed the subject of comment in the published Resolution of my Government. I am glad, however, to take this opportunity of expressing to you personally my wholehearted endorsement of the appreciation of your work recorded and published by my Government, and I congratulate you all upon an impressive parade and a smart turn-out worthy of the force you represent.

***His Excellency's Address to gentlemen
Invested at the Calcutta Durbar on
18th November 1936.***

MAJOR-GENERAL GEORGE MACKINTOSH LINDSAY,
C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.,

You will shortly have completed thirty-seven years service with the military forces of the Crown, beginning at the time of the South African War and covering a period of far-reaching changes in the art of war and of peace time training for that supreme emergency.

In the course of your career you have been long associated with the training, organisation and employment of machine gunners and later with the progress of mechanisation; you have brought to bear on a variety of problems the forward outlook that has inspired your work in those branches of the service.

You were mentioned in despatches early in your career in the South African War and during the Great War were similarly mentioned in despatches no fewer than six times: in 1917 you received the award of the Distinguished Service Order followed in 1919 by the award of the Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

For nearly six years while serving in staff appointments or in command of a Brigade you enjoyed the honour of being an Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty the King. In recognition of your long and distinguished service His Majesty has been

pleased to appoint you a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I now invest you with the Insignia of that honour.

MR. WILLIAM HUGH THOMPSON, C.S.I., M.L.C.,

Retiring to take up a career in Commerce after a period of sixteen years spent in the Indian Civil Service you entered the Bengal Legislative Council in 1927, and became leader of the European Group on the retirement of Sir Lancelot Travers. Under your able and energetic leadership this group whilst preserving its independence of view has at the same time maintained a firm attitude on the questions of law and order, and finance. You have also represented the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the Calcutta Improvement Trust, and have taken an active part in the work of the European Association in Bengal.

Your public services both as a servant of the Crown and as a representative of European commercial and political interests in Bengal have set an example worthy of high commendation.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

**MR. HERBERT PATRICK VICTOR TOWNEND, C.I.E.,
I.C.S.,**

You have served for 25 years in the Indian Civil Service with a meritorious record in district

and Secretariat posts. As Secretary, to Government in the Local Self-Government Department you rendered valuable assistance in the department and the legislature during the preparation* and enactment of the Bengal Municipal Act of 1932 and the Calcutta Municipal Amendment Act of 1933.

In the Spring of 1934 you were appointed to the new post of Rural Development Commissioner, in which capacity you have effected most useful and constructive work. To you is due much of the credit for the success of the voluntary Jute Restriction Scheme and the Bengal Development Act of 1935 is due in no small measure to your initiative and constant inspiration.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

COLONEL RICHARD BARRY BUTLER, C.I.E., C.B.E., M.C.,

You have a long record of meritorious service in India from before the War both in staff appointments and regimental duties. You served through the Great War from the outset, received the Military Cross in 1915 for service with the 30th Lancers, were mentioned three times in Despatches and received accelerated promotion to the Brevet ranks of Major and Lieut.-Colonel. Passing the staff college after the War you held for a time the appointment of Assistant Adjutant General on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief in India in recognition of which you were appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

After a period of service as Military Secretary to my predecessor you returned to command the 16th Cavalry—a command which you relinquished to place your experience and mature judgment at my disposal. * You were made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1930 and in recognition of long and distinguished service to India and the Empire this further honour has now been conferred upon you.

In the name of the King-Emperor of India and by His Majesty's Command, I invest you with the Insignia of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, of which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you a Companion.

THE HON'BLE MAHARAJA SIR MANMATHA NATH RAY
CHOUDHURY, KT., OF SANTOSH, MEMBER OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

Your family has had a long and honourable association with Eastern Bengal and you yourself can show a remarkable record of public service, having been President of the Bengal Legislative Council continuously during the difficult times of the last ten years. In performing the duties attached to this position you have consistently maintained that attitude of fairness and impartiality which becomes it. As long ago as 1910, in the time of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to show his appreciation of your services by the conferment of the title of Raja upon you, and in 1930 His late Majesty bestowed upon you the honour of a Knighthood. I heartily congratulate you upon the distinction of the personal title of Maharaja which

His Excellency the Viceroy has now been pleased to confer upon you.

RAJA PRAFULLA NATH TAGORE,

A member of an old illustrious family whose history in Bengal stretches back to the days before the East India Company, you have worthily carried on the munificent and charitable traditions of your house. The list of medical and charitable institutions which have benefited by your generosity is a long one. You have also fulfilled in an exemplary manner the obligations of your position as a leading landholder of this province, and have held with credit the responsible position of Sheriff of Calcutta. I now have much pleasure in presenting you with the Sanad of the title of Raja which you have so well deserved.

**MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA PANDIT VIDHUSHEKHAR
BHATTACHARYYA SASTRI,**

You have a reputation as a scholar which extends beyond this country into Europe and have become an acknowledged authority on Tibetan Buddhist literature. You have been engaged in the reconstruction of lost Sanskrit works from early Tibetan transcripts. Abundant evidence of your erudition and scholarship may be found in the long list of works which you have published, and the Calcutta University has, in view of your learning, given you the rank of a University Professor.

I congratulate you upon the distinction now conferred upon you.

MR. JOHN CHAMBERS, O.B.E., M.C.,

You joined the Indian Service of Engineers in 1919 and have a record of enthusiastic and able work particularly with regard to roads, bridges and ferro concrete structures. You were closely associated with the design and erection of the reinforced concrete bridge over the Teesta River, which was opened in 1933. Since then you have been appointed to the Special Post of Bridge Designer to the Government of Bengal, and also for some time supervised the construction in ferro concrete of the new Government House, Darjeeling. In recognition of the value of your work to Government and the community at large the present honour has been bestowed upon you.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Badge of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. EDWARD FAIRLIE WATSON, O.B.E.,

After long experience in India you joined the public service in 1927 and since then have been Superintendent of the Governor's Estates. Your post involving as it does the upkeep of four Government Houses with the grounds attached to them, entails a heavy responsibility and the administration of large sums of money. You have recently had to bear added responsibility owing to the construction and equipment of the new Government House at Darjeeling. You have proved yourself worthy of your position of trust and have shown yourself to be a hard-working, conscientious and public spirited officer.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Badge of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

CAPTAIN JAMES FRANCIS SCOTT McLAREN, O.B.E.,

You became Adjutant of the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, when it was founded and have worked hard to promote its interests. By special skill in organisation, and by tact, discipline and firmness of character you have been able successfully to carry out your duties in this new, and by no means easy, post. You have also set a personal example that is of especial value in institutions of an educational character.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Badge of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

RAI SARADA PROSHANNA GHOSH BAHADUR, I.S.O.,

You have completed thirty years in the service of Government and in recent years have risen to hold charge of a District. You have been chosen on several occasions for duties requiring courage and independence of judgment and as a District Officer have earned the appreciation of Government and the public: your work as Magistrate of Hooghly District, in connection with the Damodar floods last year, deserves special commendation.

His Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to appoint you a Companion of the Imperial Service Order and it is with great pleasure that I now hand you the Badge of that Order.

MR. CHARLES RUPERT BATTERSBY, M.B.E.,

Throughout your many years of service in the Bengal Government Press, you have inspired confidence by your steadiness and ability in the discharge of your duties. As Superintendent for the last seven and a half years you have maintained the Press in a high state of efficiency under heavy pressure of work. You have also displayed a keen interest in the welfare of your subordinates, both in the factory and in organising healthy outdoor sports.

I would also refer to your notable service since the announcement of this award in connection with the heavy and novel task of preparing rolls for a greatly enlarged electorate in this province.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. JOSEPH BURNETT, M.B.E.,

You have been an active and loyal member both of the Bengal Provincial Branch of the St. John Ambulance Association and of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, for twenty-five years. During the War whilst you were serving in the Customs Department you rendered valuable help in training and preparing six hundred orderlies for service in Mesopotamia. In 1920 you were promoted to the Rank of a District Officer of the Brigade, and since retiring from Government Service eight years ago have devoted all your time to the duties of that office in addition to doing most strenuous work as

a lay lecturer, and a supervisor of three first-aid stations. Since 1921 you have been an Honorary Life Member of the Association and in 1932 became an Officer Brother of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. RATAN MOHAN CHATTERJEE, M.B.E.,

A worthy member of a well-known family, you have served as Deputy Sheriff of Calcutta and have associated yourself actively with philanthropic causes in this province; you have rendered valuable service in the campaign against Tuberculosis, and have been particularly enthusiastic in raising funds for the establishment of a Tuberculosis Clinic: the Red Cross Society has also benefited by your generosity.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. HENRY RAYMOND EDMUNDS, M.B.E.,

You have served Government in the Agricultural Department for 27 years at first as an Overseer and later, since 1921 in the lower Agricultural Service. You were instrumental in the development of the Demonstration Farm started in the Kalimpong Homes and since taken over by Government. Since 1921 you have been in charge of

demonstration work in the district of Darjeeling where your assistance in the improvement of the quality and variety of crops has been of great benefit to the people of the hills. Your public spirited services as Secretary of the Kālimpong Mela Committee have contributed much to the success of this important annual exhibition.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. HIRENDRA NATH GHOSH, M.B.E.,

During your sixteen years career as a journalist you have won the esteem both of officers of Government and your colleagues in the Press, and as long ago as 1929 were selected by the Associated Press as special reporter. You have rendered varied services to the province among which is to be recorded your help in the jute restriction campaigns of 1935 and the present year. In the position which you have won for yourself you have always maintained the highest standards of your profession.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

MR. WILLIAM LACEY, M.B.E.,

You have served for sixteen years with credit in the Inspectorate of Guns and your work both as Chief Examiner and as Assistant Inspector has been consistently of merit. Your knowledge and

experience have been of the greatest assistance to the Inspection Section.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the 'Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

CONDUCTOR ROBERT COLLIE, M.B.E.,

For over nine years you have been the Superintendent of the General Staff Branch at Eastern Command Headquarters, and have carried through most efficiently the great volume of work connected with manoeuvres, training grants and other training matters. Besides performing hard work yourself you have been able to maintain efficiency and good organisation in the staff placed under your control.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I hand you the Badge of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

DR. OTTO HARRY STURSBURG,

You have been engaged since 1896 in Missionary work in Berhampore where your devotion to the causes of education and medical relief has endeared you to the people and you are now the head of the London Missionary Societies High School and three girls' schools in that town. You are also the Chairman of the Jiaganj Medical Mission whose women's hospital has been built and brought to its present state of efficiency largely through your own untiring efforts. Apart from this purely philanthropic work you have also found the time

to render useful service as a Commissioner of the Berhampore Municipality.

In the name of the King-Emperor and by His Majesty's Command, I present you with the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal of the First Class for public service in India.

SARDAR BAHADUR SUBEDAR SEWA SINGH,

You enlisted in the Burma Military Police in 1904 and rose steadily with an unblemished character to the rank of Subedar in 1923. You have served with conspicuous ability as an Outpost Commander in several stations in Burma and your command of the Tharrawaddy Outpost between 1931 and 1934 was particularly commendable in view of the abnormal work required there at that time.

His Excellency the Viceroy has now conferred upon you the title of Sardar Bahadur, and in handing to you the Sanad of that distinction I congratulate you.

KHAN BAHADUR QUAZI UBAIDUL BARI,

A member of a family which has rendered service to Government for many years, you yourself served with distinction as an Interpreter in the Calcutta Small Causes Court for some 34 years, and also officiated as Deputy Registrar. In retirement you have become an Honorary Presidency Magistrate and rendered public service as Vice-President of the Calcutta Muslim Orphanage and as a member and supporter of other charitable institutions. In the Silver Jubilee Celebrations you took a leading part in the feeding of the poor. I now have much

pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of the title of Khan Bahadur on the award of which I congratulate you.

RAI DEBENDRA NATH MITRA BAHADUR,

For 20 years as District Agricultural Officer, Faridpur, you displayed great energy and ability in the organisation of agricultural and industrial exhibitions and in popularizing improved methods of husbandry among the cultivators. Since then as Special Officer in connection with the Jute Scheme you have conducted restriction propaganda with zeal and ability, and your efforts have earned approbation from all quarters. In 1926 you were awarded the title of Rai Sahib and I now have pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of the title of Rai Bahadur which His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you.

RAI PHANI BHUSAN BANARJI BAHADUR,

Towards the end of a long and meritorious career in the Judicial Service, which you joined in 1907, you attained the rank of District and Sessions Judge and served in that capacity for some three years. In recognition of the long and valuable services which you have rendered, His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur, the Sanad of which honour I now have pleasure in handing to you.

RAI NRISHINHA RANJAN MUKHARJI BAHADUR,

You entered Government service in 1905 and retired 30 years later with an excellent record.

During your period of service you filled the responsible and important positions of Additional District Magistrate in the difficult districts of Chittagong, Midnapore and Dacca. Your good work in connection with the civil disobedience campaign and sustained efficiency and soundness of judgment have been of great value to Government. In handing to you the Sanad of the title of Rai Bahadur I congratulate you on the award of that well-merited distinction.

RAI MOHENDRA KUMAR GHOSH BAHADUR,

An influential citizen of Khulna, you have been outstanding in public service in that district. For three successive terms you were Chairman of the Khulna Municipality and were twice Vice-Chairman of the District Board. Since 1931 you have also served as an Honorary Magistrate. Your career is an example to others of loyalty, ability and useful work for the public. I have much pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of the title of Rai Bahadur on the award of which I congratulate you.

RAI KUMAR NATH BAGCHI BAHADUR,

In 1915 you entered the Bihar and Orissa Medical Service and became successively Chemical and Public Analyst to the Government of that province. It is largely due to your hard work, enthusiasm and ability that the laboratory work of the Public Health Department has reached its present high level of development and efficiency.

In 1926 the title of Rai Sahib was conferred upon you, and now His Excellency the Viceroy and

Governor-General has conferred upon you the title of Rai Bahadur. In handing to you the Sanad of that distinction I congratulate you.

RAI HRISHIKESH MOOKERJEE BAHADUR,

You were first appointed to the Customs Department in 1917 and are now a Principal Appraiser of the Calcutta Custom House. An acknowledged expert on matters connected with piece goods, you have several times been selected to assist the Tariff Board and lately have been placed on special duty with the Board in connection with the enquiry concerning the Textile Industry. The title of Rai Sahib was conferred upon you in 1930 and I congratulate you upon the further award of the title of Rai Bahadur, the Sanad of which I now hand to you.

RAI SURJYA NARAIN BANERJEE BAHADUR,

In 1924 the title of Rai Sahib was conferred upon you in recognition of your public services. Since then you have risen to the position of General Assistant to the Chief Mechanical Engineer of the East Indian Railway. Your strong personality and capacity for hard work have earned for you the high esteem of your colleagues and your community. I now congratulate you upon the award of the title of Rai Bahadur, which His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you.

KHAN BAHADUR MIRZA ABU JAAFAR,

For many years Inspector of Schools in the Chittagong Division you have now been transferred to officiate in the responsible post of Inspector of

Schools in the Presidency Division. From the days of your service in the Great War till now you have throughout maintained a record of marked ability, unblemished loyalty, and enthusiasm for the mental and physical wellbeing of the young. In 1933 you received the title of Khan Sahib and I now congratulate you upon the award of the title of Khan Bahadur which His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you.

RAI SUK LAL NAG BAHADUR, M.L.C.,

You are deservedly respected by your tenants and the public of Bagerhat in the Khulna District for your benevolence and public spirit: you are a member of the Bengal Legislative Council and occupy a number of responsible positions in Bagerhat where you are Chairman of the Local Board. You have been the mainstay of the Bagerhat College and have generously contributed to its improvement.

Your efforts for the betterment of the conditions of your fellow-men have received recognition by His Excellency the Viceroy in the award of the title of Rai Bahadur. In handing you the Sanad of that distinction I congratulate you.

RAI PROBODH GOPAL MUKHARJI BAHADUR,

As Advocate and Public Prosecutor at Howrah for many years you conducted the cases entrusted to you with marked ability, legal acumen and sound judgment and have now become Public Prosecutor of Calcutta.. The manner in which you have conducted cases of special importance committed to your charge has earned the commendation both

of the Courts and of the Executive. You have always been ready to give advice, assistance and co-operation in matters of public importance when occasion has arisen.

I congratulate you on the award by His Excellency the Viceroy of the title of Rai Bahadur, the Sanad of which I now have much pleasure in handing to you.

RAI HRIDAY NATH DATTA BAHADUR,

You entered the Police Department in 1903 and have spent the greater part of your service in the Finger Print Bureau. In 1928 you were appointed to officiate as a Deputy Superintendent of Police and as Superintendent of the Finger Print Bureau, and were confirmed in the higher rank in 1933.

You received the title of Rai Sahib some five years ago and your continued reliable, thorough and painstaking work has earned you further distinction. I now hand to you the Sanad of the title of Rai Bahadur, which His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you.

RAI CHAITANYA CHAND SEAL BAHADUR,

You have served Government for over 27 years and for the last 16 years have been Personal Assistant to the Chief Engineer of the Public Health Department. In recognition of your long, faithful and meritorious service His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Bahadur, the Sanad of which I now hand to you. I congratulate you.

RAI BIRAJ MOHAN DAS BAHADUR,

From the time of the Great War onwards you have been continuously in charge of the Bengal Tanning Institute, or its predecessor, known as Research Tannery. Step by step you have enabled a tanning industry to grow up in Bengal, and the practical knowledge of the industry which obtains in present-day Bengal is due almost entirely to the research which you have done, and the steps which you have taken to propagate its results.

I heartily congratulate you upon the award of the title of Rai Bahadur which has been made to you by His Excellency the Viceroy, and have much pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of that distinction.

RAI NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTY BAHADUR,

In 1922 after ten years service under the Government of Bengal you became an Income Tax Officer and in 1929 were promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax, which you still hold. Throughout your service you have shown yourself to be hard-working, able, loyal and conscientious.

In handing to you the Sanad of the title of Rai Bahadur which has been awarded to you, I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB HIRA LAL SEN,

You joined the service in 1905 and since then have spent almost the whole of your time in the Settlement Department. The work which you have performed during the last few years in the District

of Hooghly has been carried out with great ability and success despite its complicated nature. The troubled area of Arambagh presented a special problem but your management of settlement operations there was also successful.

I now congratulate you upon the award of the title of Rai Sahib to you by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General, and have much pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of that distinction.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI QUAZI MUHAMMAD SUDRUL OLA,

Appointed as a Sub-Deputy Magistrate in 1914 you have become an expert Revenue Officer and have spent a considerable period in the Settlement Department. In 1934 you were selected to undertake the preparatory work required by the Bengal Wakf Act a task wherein your industry and keenness have been rewarded with success. I congratulate you upon the conferment upon you of the title of Khan Sahib by His Excellency the Viceroy and have much pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of that distinction.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABDUR RASHID,

Your presidency of the Patgati Union Board began when the Board was set up some eleven years ago, and you have played the leading part in setting up and maintaining the high standard of public service which is rendered by that Board. You have also known how to win the confidence of all sections of the public and have thereby been enabled to secure and maintain peaceful conditions within

the union. I congratulate you on the title of Khan Sahib awarded to you.

RAI SAHIB ANUKUL CHANDRA BASU,

You entered the service of the High Court in 1916 and have shewn marked ability, conscientiousness and an earnest regard for duty. Your record of service has been exceptionally good and you are now an Assistant Registrar on the Appellate Side of the Court.

His Excellency the Viceroy has conferred upon you the title of Rai Sahib the Sanad of which I now hand to you. I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB BRINDABAN CHANDRA DE,

You have rendered meritorious service for some 26 years in the Bengal Civil Service and for some time were employed as Special Officer in the Cossimbazar Wards Estate in which important charge you acquitted yourself with credit.

His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib the Sanad of which I have now much pleasure in handing to you. I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB WOOMESH CHANDRA DEY,

As Manager of a Zemindary Company in the Sundarbans you have won for yourself a position of regard amongst the cultivators. You are President of your Union Board and have succeeded in improving water-supply and sanitation. As a member of the District Board of the 24-Parganas, you are a supporter of sound and practical administration. Your special knowledge of conditions in

the Sundarbans has always been placed at the service of the authorities.

I now hand to you the Sanad of the title of Rai Sahib which has been conferred upon you by His Excellency the Viceroy and I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB PROMODE MOHAN CHAKRABARTTI,

For over seventeen years you have taken a brilliant and successful part in the work of the Intelligence Branch, and since 1929 have officiated as Deputy Superintendent of Police: you have displayed constant courage and devotion to duty in the bringing to justice of notorious terrorists. You have earned frequent rewards and commendations and I now hand to you the Sanad of the title of Rai Sahib which His Excellency the Viceroy has conferred upon you. I congratulate you upon this award.

RAI SAHIB SANTIPADA CHAKRAVARTTI,

Twenty years ago you were transferred from the Bihar Educational Service to become a Sub-Inspector in the Calcutta Police. Since then you have held charge of several of the more important Police Stations in the city and also made your mark in the Detective Department. Since your appointment in 1932 as Chief Court Inspector in the Court of the Chief Presidency Magistrate you have acquitted yourself with credit in the estimation of prominent members of the Bar. I now congratulate you upon the award of the title of Rai Sahib which His Excellency the Viceroy has bestowed upon you. I have much pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of that distinction.

RAI SAHIB BINQDE BIHARI BANARJI,

As Manager of the Bengal Veterinary College you have encountered many difficult problems and have been able to deal with them in a manner which has won the approbation of your Principal. You have initiated and carried out many schemes for the improvement of the college.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has bestowed upon you the title of Rai Sahib the Sanad of which I now hand to you. I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB PROMOTHO NATH DE,

You have rendered good and efficient service to the East Indian Railway and by your industry and ability have risen to the position of Head Clerk in the establishment section of the Chief Engineer's Office. On several occasions you have also filled the post of office Superintendent in an efficient manner. I now have much pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of the title of Rai Sahib conferred by His Excellency the Viceroy and I congratulate you upon the conferment of that distinction.

RAI SAHIB ANIL CHANDRA NANDI,

You joined the service of the East Indian Railway in 1903 and have done excellent work as an Accountant and Assistant Accounts Officer. You have rendered particularly good service as Officer in charge of the Outstanding Section in which considerable improvements were made and substantial retrenchments were ably brought about.

I congratulate you upon the award of the title of Rai Sahib by His Excellency the Viceroy and I have much pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of that title.

**RAO SAHIB KODUKULA SATYANARAYANAMURTY
PANTULU GARU,**

In 1920 after some 11 years of Government service you became Superintendent of the establishment section of the Bengal Nagpur Railway. In this capacity you have inspired confidence and goodwill and have continued to do excellent work.

His Excellency the Viceroy has now conferred upon you the title of Rao Sahib and in handing to you the Sanad of that title I congratulate you.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI MUHAMMAD ABDUL AZIZ,

You have presided over the local body within your Union for some twenty years. You have been a member of the Local Board of Bongaon for a similar period and a member of the District Board of Jessore for some eight years. In your own Union you have set up a Dispensary and yourself contributed handsomely towards its establishment. Improvements to communications and the beginnings of a good system of water-supply are evidence of your progressive administration. I congratulate you upon the award of the title of Khan Sahib by His Excellency the Viceroy.

KHAN SAHIB MINOCHER HORMASJEE DASTOOR,

You are the Manager of the Branch at Parbatipur of an old firm of caterers and have for many years

provided for the comfort and refreshment of travellers at that Junction. You have served as a Railway Magistrate and have co-operated loyally with the local officials to whom you have ungrudgingly rendered assistance. You were also prominent in raising subscriptions for the Viceroy's Fund for Earthquake Relief.

I now have much pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of the title of Khan Sahib which His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General has conferred upon you. I congratulate you.

RAI SAHIB JATINDRA NATH BOSE,

His Excellency the Viceroy in recognition of your long and meritorious services in the Calcutta High Court where you are Senior Interpreter of the Original Side has conferred the title of Rai Sahib upon you.

I have now much pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of that title and I congratulate you upon its award.

RAI SAHIB SURENDRA NATH MUKHARJI,

For many years you did commendable work as a Kanungo in major settlement operations and since 1926 have continued to do very good work as a Sub-Deputy Collector, both in rural work and at headquarters.

I now have much pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of the title of Rai Sahib which His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to grant you and I congratulate you upon that distinction.

RAI SAHIB SARBARI BHUSAN CHAUDHURI,

You are now the senior Stenographer in the office of the Controller of Currency in Calcutta and have been in Government service since 1908. You have shown yourself to be possessed of great capability and have justified the trust which has been reposed in you in a position which requires the handling of very secret documents.

I have now much pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of the title of Rai Sahib which His Excellency the Viceroy has conferred upon you. I congratulate you upon that award.

RAI SAHIB ABINASH CHANDRA BASU,

As a recognition of 34 years of very efficient work which earned the appreciation of successive Accountants-General, His Excellency the Viceroy has conferred the title of Rai Sahib upon you.

In handing to you the Sanad of this title I have much pleasure in congratulating you upon its award.

RAI SAHIB ASHUTOSH SEN,

Employed for many years on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, you were later appointed as Rates Clerk in the Traffic Manager's Office of the Eastern Bengal Railway. In 1924 and 1925 you officiated as Assistant Superintendent and finally rose to the position of Assistant Superintendent, Rates. Your devotion to duty and knowledge of your subject have marked you as an efficient and valuable officer.

In recognition of your services His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to confer upon you the title of Rai Sahib. I have much pleasure in handing to you the Sanad of that title upon which I congratulate you.

MR. TAJAMMUL AHMED,

An eye specialist of repute in private practice in Calcutta, you have also devoted much time and energy to public work. You have given your honorary services to several Calcutta institutions including the eye infirmary of the Medical College and the Calcutta Blind School. You have also served on a variety of public bodies concerned with public health and welfare and you helped to organise practical relief for the Bihar earthquake.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I present you with the Kaisar-i-Hind medal of the second class for public service in India.

REVEREND PREMANAND ANATH NATH SEN,

For many years you have worked in the cause of lepers and in this city have established two dispensaries for curative treatment of leprosy, where a large number of cases are treated. Your concern for the welfare of the victims of this disease and the practical efforts which you have devoted to the alleviation of their sufferings have made you well-known and respected amongst a wide circle in Calcutta.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I present you with the

Kaisar-i-Hind Medal of the third class for public service in India.

MAULVI SYED AHSUN MIRZA,

As a member of an old and illustrious family you have closely associated yourself with many kinds of public service in Murshidabad. You have been an Honorary Magistrate for 27 years and as long ago as 1915 were Chairman for a term of Murshidabad Municipality. In the heavy floods of two years ago you went out personally at a mature age into the stricken areas and distributed food on behalf of yourself and your family to the needy cultivators.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I present you with the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal of the third class for public service in India.

BABU JNANADANANDA DAS GUPTA,

During some 30 years of loyal and devoted service in the medical department including service in the Naga Hills you have won a reputation as a skilled surgeon and have added to the utility and popularity of the dispensaries placed under your charge. Your active interest in social and humanitarian work have earned you well deserved recognition.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I present you with the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal of the third class for public service in India.

MAULVI ABDUR RAHMAN,

Your original work in the cause of Debt Conciliation, did much to appease the agrarian agitation in your union and your experience greatly facilitated the work of the Khila Arbitration Board. You have also taken a great interest in improving rural conditions in your locality and command confidence beyond the limits of the union of which you are President.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I present you with the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal of the third class for public service in India.

MR. MATILAL DATTA,

You have a long and excellent record of service and as Veterinary Surgeon appointed to the hospital at Chittagong you have shown unusual ability in popularising the hospital at the expense of your private practice; and as a result of your enthusiasm notable improvements have been effected by public contribution.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I present you with the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal of the third class for public service in India.

MAULVI NAZIRUDDIN AHMED,

In co-operation with the officers of Government you have rendered valuable services to the cause of rural uplift in Tippera. At the expense of your practice as a lawyer you have toured

extensively in aid of the campaign against water-hyacinth and are a staunch supporter of activities in the cause of rural reconstruction.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I present you with the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal of the third class for public service in India.

MR. ABINASH CHANDRA RAI CHAUDHURI,

In the course of long service in Bengal and Assam you have been engaged on many public health campaigns, have officiated as Assistant Director, and are now entrusted with work of great importance to public health in the densely populated industrial areas on the banks of the Hooghly.

On behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I present you with the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal of the third class for public service in India.

OFFICIATING SUB-INSPECTOR LOKE NATH DAS,

With two other persons you lay in wait at night for certain suspects who, on being challenged, turned and fled. You immediately set off in pursuit of one of them who, finding that he was being followed, opened fire upon you. You returned his fire and further pursued the suspect until another of your party was able to arrest him.

In recognition of the courage you displayed on this occasion His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General has been pleased to award you the Indian Police Medal for gallantry. I congratulate you.

CONSTABLE SITAL RAM GORE,

With the officer whom you had been set to guard you gave chase at night to an unknown person who had failed to reply when challenged.

The man turned out to be armed and opened fire but you continued the pursuit in company with your officer. The fugitive fell down and, though realising that he might still be armed, you approached and secured him.

In recognition of this courageous act His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General has been pleased to award you the Indian Police Medal for gallantry. I congratulate you.

ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTOR MUZAFFAR HUSSAIN KHAN,

You were posted with your men outside a house where it was known that a dacoity was contemplated so that you could cut off the retreat of the dacoits. The dacoits attacked the house and were driven off. Hearing the noise you came forward and, though armed with only a lathi, incapacitated three of their number who were subsequently arrested.

The award of the Indian Police Medal for gallantry by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India is a fitting recognition of the courage and devotion to duty which you showed on that occasion. I congratulate you.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Pinjrapole
at Sodepur on 21st November 1936.***

I welcome this opportunity to meet the President, Sir Badridas Goenka, and Members of the Committee of the Calcutta Pinjrapole Society in its Golden Jubilee year.

During the 50 years of its existence, the Society has collected and spent many lakhs of rupees for the welfare of cows and cattle in general. It is gratifying to know that this Society has come to appreciate the benefits to be derived from keeping cattle under modern Western conditions, in so far as these can be applied in India, without infringing religious susceptibilities.

I can assure you that the advice and assistance you now seek from my Government's experts will be freely given, and I am sure will be of great value in the cause you have at heart.

Under the new Rules you have recently adopted, it will be possible to do a great deal, not only for your own herds, but for the improvement of cattle in the surrounding area, and eventually in Bengal as a whole, by the issue of good, young, surplus animals to suitable owners.

I am also pleased to learn that you have set aside a sum of Rs. 1,500 this year for the purpose of rescuing good young cows from slaughter; as a token of my sympathy I shall be pleased to add to this sum a small donation from funds at my personal disposal. Such slaughter is a source of loss

to the country which His Excellency the Viceroy is most anxious should be checked, and your activity in mitigating this loss should commend itself to all who are interested in the welfare of cattle.

The improvement of cattle is a slow process calling for patience and perseverance. This work in India will require a vast sum of money and also sustained effort wisely directed—an effort which calls for the support of all classes and creeds.

I commend your desire to carry on your dairy here, and that at Lillooah, henceforth on sound commercial lines, so that they may supply good pure milk, and be self-supporting. By doing so not only will they work for the improvement of cattle but also they may provide funds for their own improvement and expansion, and release considerable sums now spent on their maintenance for other activities of the Society—such as the care of old animals, which cannot be remunerative.

Your community is widespread in India and in promoting the welfare of cattle on sound and practical lines, the Pinjrapole Society sets an example to animal lovers throughout the country.

I wish you every success in the great project you have commenced in this your Jubilee year, and trust your plans for progress will meet with the success they deserve.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Opening of
the Dunlop Rubber Company's Factory
at Sahaganj on 28th November 1936.***

MR. WILSON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have taken this opportunity, on my way to a somewhat different ceremony, of coming here to inaugurate the opening of this factory because it seems to me that the establishment of this industry, not merely in India but on this side of India, is an event of some importance to the province of Bengal. The invention of the pneumatic tyre can fairly be classed among those discoveries which have exercised a profound influence on the course of civilisation; but of more immediate significance to the province is the opening here of an enterprise which promises to supply employment not only for a good type of labour but also for a certain number of skilled technicians. I have been pleased to learn that an overwhelming preponderance of your staff of something over 600 has been engaged locally and more than half of those employed are Bengalis. Moreover, I understand that there are likely to be some twenty positions of a superior type available for Indians when they have received a full training and I trust that you will find it possible to ensure that those who belong to this province, so far as they are able to qualify themselves for such appointments, will be given every opportunity to obtain them. It is welcome news that the staff of Laboratory and Process Control Technicians numbering twelve consists entirely of Bengalis holding degrees from Calcutta University and I feel sure that, given

the opportunity of training, there will be found no lack of men fit to be trusted with work requiring skill, diligence and intelligence.

As you have said, Mr. Wilson, this enterprise is only a beginning. It has a vast field before it and in the supply of the potential demand of India in the rural no less than in the urban areas there is scope for an industry of great magnitude. This is not the time to speculate as to the possible course of future developments but we may at least hope that your decision to select the banks of the Hooghly as a suitable location for your enterprise may result in a very notable addition to the scope of industrial employment in this area; if this should be the case you will have rendered a valuable service to the province.

I would have liked, had time permitted, to pay a visit to your labour lines which, I understand, have been the object of careful planning in the interests of healthy and contented employees. As you understand however my time here is necessarily brief and I must content myself with viewing the factory itself and its operations in progress.

I will proceed therefore to declare the factory open.

***His Excellency's Speech at the unveiling
of certain portraits in the Hall of the
Hooghly Mohsin College, on 28th
November 1936.***

Before unveiling these portraits I should like to say a word or two about the subjects of them—personalities wellknown to this place at one time or another during the century that has passed, and all of them remembered with pride. Every schoolboy knows—I feel it appropriate to use a favourite expression of Lord Macaulay—every schoolboy in this province knows the name and works of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. It is customary in these days of slogans and facile clichés, for us who are not familiar with his language, to label him in our minds as “the Walter Scott of Bengal”. In doing so, we perhaps obscure by a reflected glory the proper brilliance of his intellect and powers. To found anew the literary traditions of a language is an achievement demanding not only skill and steadfastness of purpose, but true originality of thought. This Bankim Chandra possessed in no small degree, and thereby earned for himself another title “the father of modern Bengali prose”. In so remembering his name we may perhaps allow a little of his reflected glory to fall upon the College where he passed some six or seven of his early years.

Whilst Bankim Chandra was at Hooghly there was also another student, Dwarkanath Mitter, who was to make a name for himself in law. To a first

rate knowledge of the law and an exceptional facility in the English language, Dwarkanath contrived to add a not unworthy skill and interest in mathematics. He made his reputation as a lawyer at the age of 32, became a judge of the High Court at 34 but died some seven years later in 1874.

Another judge, but of a generation some twenty years younger than Dwarkanath Mitter, was Syed Ameer Ali. After leaving this college, however, Ameer Ali went to study in England, and on his return came to occupy a series of public positions which make a very impressive list. I will not detail them at present, but I should mention that he was the first Indian to become a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and acquitted himself with honour in that position. It may not be out of place to add that the late Syed Ameer Ali was for many years a member of the same Club as myself in London where I used to meet him almost daily.

The three remaining portraits are those of teachers of this college. Dr. Troylokhyanath Mitra was distinguished as a teacher of Law and Mathematics both here and in Calcutta. For some time he was President of the Faculty of Law in the University of Calcutta and his portrait hangs there in the Senate House. This further portrait is now to hang here, to remind the college of the seven years for which he lectured to the law classes within these walls.

Kishori Mohan Sen Gupta was educated at Presidency College in Calcutta, and spent nearly all the

remainder of his working life in this college as Professor of Mathematics. For twenty years he laboured here to become one of the most successful and popular teachers of his generation. He died some thirty years ago, but his memory will be preserved within these walls by this portrait and by the memorial tablet which has been erected in this hall.

Lastly, I would say something of Amvika Charan Mitra who passed his student days with credit at this College and subsequently devoted himself to the Law. He became a lawyer of distinction in this district and for practically the whole period of thirty years preceding his death he was the Law Lecturer in this College.

I now unveil the portraits of these students and teachers of the College, confident that their example will serve as an inspiration to the College and the province, and that, as further names come to be held in honour amongst you, they will be as illustrious as these.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Centenary
Celebrations of the Hooghly Mohsin
College on 28th November 1936.***

To-day marks the beginning of the Centenary Celebrations of this College that attained its hundredth birthday on the first of August this year.

In a land where culture is as ancient as in India—where the age of learning is to be measured not by one or two centuries but by many—it might seem almost strange that we should be attaching so much importance to the first centenary of an institution of learning. And yet the hundredth birthday of this College is an event worthy of celebration—for this College is among the first of those centres of learning through which the thought and life of educated men in India was brought into intimate and irrevocable contact with the thought and life of the modern world. The foundation of such colleges marked the beginning of a new chapter in history.

India in her time has seen many new-comers and many of them have left behind impressive monuments as witness to posterity of their power and their achievements. Yet among those achievements those that endure longest survive not by the magnificence of their outward form but by their intrinsic value as permanent contributions to the life and thought of the people.

In that lies the true significance of this centenary; we celebrate not an isolated event that

happened and was done with but the beginning of an enterprize still rich in consequence for generations yet to come.

In the early days of this college the call was for men who could understand and translate into practice new systems of administration, new conceptions of law and a new outlook on life.

The development in detail of systematic revenue and riminal administration in Bengal districts, the first beginnings of local self-government, the practice of modern jurisprudence and the introduction into the life and literature of Bengal of a new set of values and a new spirit of criticism—such were the varied tasks that fell to the early students of this and similar colleges. We have just unveiled the portraits of men whose achievements in diverse walks of life stand forth to bespeak the ability and distinction with which those tasks were performed. Within these walls began a work that cannot be effaced: the influences that here have been exerted have sunk deep into the moral, intellectual and political consciousness of successive generations.

You are fortunate in the tradition that brings the same family names again and again on to your rolls: it enriches not only the life of the College but also the lives of those who are sent here to grow up among the influences that moulded the character of their fathers before them. There can be no better testimony to the value of this tradition than the response of old boys of the College to your appeal for funds—a response that has provided the Common Room that will be opened to-day.

It gives me great satisfaction to know that the Hooghly Madrasah so long cramped and confined

within the same building as the College will shortly be moved into new and more commodious surroundings to the mutual benefit of both institutions. As an accompaniment of this change steps have been taken to ensure that the College shall not be dissociated in the eyes of posterity from the name of Haji Muhammad Mohsin of revered memory to whose benefactions it owes its origin. I have had before me a resolution passed at a public meeting of residents of Hooghly, comprising all classes and communities and presided over by Sir P. C. Ray in which the educational authorities were urged to rename the College so as to preserve the memory of Haji Muhammad Mohsin. I welcome this recognition that benefactors such as he are an ornament not merely to the community to which they belong but to their country as a whole and are worthy to be remembered by their fellow citizens in unison. In renaming this College the Hooghly Mohsin College my Government have endeavoured both to respond to the desire expressed at that meeting and to preserve the name of Hooghly that is rich in memories for many generations of students.

In the academic sphere I have been pleased to learn that both by the test of numbers on the roll and by the test of success in coping with the examiners the College continues to render a good account of its vitality and of the standard it maintains. At the same time your Principal has spoken frankly of some of the disabilities under which it labours. Among those disabilities are some that call for the earnest consideration of the educational authorities, and one in particular to the solution of which I trust that all concerned will

lend their best efforts. I refer to the need of adequate facilities for healthy outdoor exercise and recreation in face of growing demands. If there have been misunderstandings in the past I trust they will not stand in the way of a fresh approach to this difficult problem.

Mr. Zachariah has referred to the difficulties inherent in reconciling the needs of a college with the requirements of an impersonal system of public administration: in so doing he has touched upon a question too wide to permit of an easy answer on an occasion such as the present. It is true that in return for the stability that is gained from the backing of public finance an educational institution is apt to suffer from restrictions that are an inevitable accompaniment of public administration. Lord Macaulay, whose name looms large in the early history of this College, foresaw that very danger in another connection: referring to the choice of functionaries to whom authority over this College was to be entrusted he concluded by saying: "When we repose such a confidence we ought to repose it in the man, not in the office".

May I however express the belief that offices are not always held by men without aptitude and enthusiasm for their tasks and that public administration does not always mean impersonal administration. If it does, whether in education or in any other activity that concerns the lives of the young, it may be public but it is not administration.

Many of you have no doubt observed that the quotation from Lord Macaulay is taken from the history of Hooghly College that Mr. Zachariah has so ably and charmingly written.

I commend this history to the study not only of its old pupils but of all who are interested in the past, the present and the future of higher education in this Province—and might I add of others too who like a good book. The copy that I have received bears on its cover the somewhat forbidding inscription "For official use only" but I feel sure that a work of such interest and quality will in some form or other find its way into the hands of those who value their common heritage and desire to see it preserved and developed.

Gentlemen this is only the beginning of your centenary celebrations and my stay here is necessarily brief. Time, and in the present instance the tide of the river Hooghly will not wait for a Governor of Bengal even upon the occasion of a centenary. Let me then conclude by wishing to you all happiness in your celebrations and to the College many happy returns of this auspicious day.

His Excellency's Speech at the St. Andrews' Day Dinner on 30th November 1936.

I understand that a rumour was widely current in Calcutta yesterday to the effect that my speech this evening would occupy a period of one hour and thirty minutes. I have no doubt that you have come prepared in the light of past experience for a dreary interlude but I can at least offer you this crumb of comfort at the outset, that unless my articulation falters to a much greater extent than it has done ever before I shall not occupy nearly so much time as that. But let me say this. The tradition by which a Governor of Bengal seizes this occasion to deliver a speech reviewing the political situation in the province and events of importance during the past year is one for which I am sure no Governor—certainly no Governor in his senses—can have any responsibility, and if you would care to take this opportunity of a change of Governors for a break with that tradition, then there will be one thing at least on which I shall be able to congratulate my successor, whoever he may be, on his arrival.

In rising to propose the Toast of “ the Viceroy and the Land We Live in ” I shall make no apology for devoting my remarks almost exclusively to matters in which I am concerned as Governor of this province and as head of its administration. We look forward in less than three weeks to welcoming His Excellency the Marquess of Linlithgow on his first visit to Calcutta as Viceroy. He is no

stranger to India either in the realm of high politics or in his appreciation of the needs of the lowliest and least vocal among its inhabitants. His public utterances as Viceroy speak for themselves more eloquently than I can of the earnestness and sincerity with which he has approached his high task at this critical juncture in Indian affairs. They testify to his firm belief that the years which are upon us will see great advances both in the political development of Indian institutions and in the economic uplift of the peoples of India.

Men sometimes speak as if the urge for political self expression and the urge for economic improvement of the masses were one and the same thing—as if the one were the necessary accompaniment of the other. It is forgotten that autocracies can give prosperity and that political freedom has often had to be bought at the cost of hardship and national poverty. The makers of the American constitution gave to the United States political unity and free institutions. It was left to the initiative of their people and the richness of their natural resources to give them prosperity. The makers of modern Russia have striven for economic prosperity under a stern dictatorship, and it remains to be seen whether political liberty will follow.

The task that lies before the Viceroy and all who are responsible for shaping the affairs of India in the years to come is to accomplish side by side those two objects of political emancipation and economic progress that in many countries of the modern world seem for the time being to have become incompatible. It is a task which to our

ideas demands neither dictatorship nor revolution but leadership, imagination and practical study; both by precept and example His Excellency the Viceroy has declared his belief in those methods.

His visit to Calcutta will come at a time of more than ordinary significance in the affairs of this province. The legislature as we now know it will have made its last contribution to history: those who seek to have a share in controlling the destinies of Bengal in the future will be settling down in earnest to the task of obtaining the support of a popular electorate. For the administration itself the conduct of these elections sets a problem of unprecedented complexity and magnitude. The preparations already made over a long period have, so far as I can judge, been well and truly made and give me every ground for hope that so far as the administrative services are concerned, the elections themselves will be carried out with efficiency and impartiality; if, as I expect, this turns out to be the case, there could be no better tribute to the value and sound condition of the administrative machine that we are passing on to our successors under the new regime.

To those on the other hand who have to face the forthcoming elections as candidates, the situation, I am sure, presents problems of no less engrossing complexity and for once in a way it is my pleasant duty to stand aside and leave them to solve most of those problems for themselves. In that respect I am in the happy position of the looker-on who sees, if not most of the game, at least a great deal of it.

Of course even at election times there are such things as the rules of the game. These are comprised in the law of the land and in the conventions of political decency. It will be the duty of Government and its officers, whether at elections or at any other time, to see that the law is maintained and in particular that symbols of organized force or authority, which in political affairs are the attributes of the State alone, are not usurped by any other body. It will also be the duty of Government and its officers to defend the existing regime against flagrant misrepresentations of fact; but, apart from that, the building up of a code of political decencies must depend on the sense of responsibility of organizations and candidates themselves—a sense of responsibility which I hope may be encouraged by the knowledge that those who are successful are likely sooner or later to be called upon to fulfil their promises.

At such a time it is not for me to indulge in anything that might be construed as party propaganda on behalf of the existing Government; but in so far as I have personally shared with my colleagues in the responsibility for Government in Bengal during the past year I should be failing in my obligations were I not to refer, however briefly, to certain of its outstanding features.

When I spoke to you last the financial settlement to be made under the new Constitution was still in the melting pot and I made no secret of my views and those of my Government upon the more important aspects of our case. I need hardly assure you that our case was fully presented to Sir Otto Niemeyer and subsequently on outstanding

points of importance to the Government of India and the Parliament of Great Britain. For the manner in which it was presented Bengal owes a great debt to Sir John Woodhead and those who served him in the Finance Department. I cannot say that we got all that we would have liked but, taking the proposals as a whole, we felt we should not be justified either on merits or in the interest of Bengal in attempting to undermine the basic conclusions of Sir Otto's momentous report. If the results fall short of our aims, the fact remains that from next year instead of working at an undeserved deficit the Government of Bengal will be possessed of sources of revenue by no means extravagant but adequate in my belief to provide for efficient administration on an economical scale: with the return of better times, of which welcome indications are, I believe, now to be discerned, real progress in constructive activities should be possible. In the course of those laborious and sometimes critical negotiations we were heartened by the feeling that public opinion of all shades in Bengal was on our side and by the belief that we were doing our best for the interests of the province. I take this opportunity of placing on public record my gratitude and that of my colleagues for the trust and support that counted for so much.

Speaking at this Dinner a year ago I referred in passing to the contrast between the lands irrigated by the Damodar Canal and the dreary wastes beyond. What I did not say, though we knew it full well at the time, was that Western Bengal was going to be confronted with one of the most severe periods of widespread scarcity that have been known in

recent years. Because we did not panic we have been attacked in some quarters with the allegation that we did not take the situation seriously enough; that is an allegation that I am going to take this opportunity to nail down.

Whether or not we took matters seriously can be judged by results and the results are that during the whole course of widespread natural calamity that we might well have called a famine there has been no authenticated case of death from starvation. We succeeded in taking it so seriously that in spite of occasional efforts to create a panic, there has been no panic. The time has not yet come to record in detail the able and devoted services of the many men—officers of Government and others—who through long and exhausting months worked and organized to save Western Bengal from imminent danger and lasting deterioration; they have now the satisfaction of seeing, with the help of a good season, generous crops ripening for harvest and the country itself enriched with works of improvement.

There have of course been local areas damaged by floods but such unfortunately is a normal incident in the life of a deltaic country and we look forward to the coming year with no immediate prospect of agricultural distress beyond the capacity of the ordinary administration to alleviate. It has cost us a good deal of money, twelve and a quarter lakhs in gratuitous relief and relief works of public utility and thirty-nine and a quarter lakhs in loans: we have also to acknowledge half a lakh from the Indian Peoples' Famine Trust Fund and something over thirty-eight thousand rupees from private sources; it makes a fairly impressive total

but it was worth it and the work has been done well and economically.

A year ago the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Bill was under the consideration of the Legislature. It passed into law and has now been put into operation in all the plains districts in Bengal except those that suffered last year from scarcity. Three hundred and sixty-two Boards entrusted with the function of voluntary conciliation of debt and eight Special Boards empowered where necessary to apply a measure of compulsion have already been established. Over a thousand more voluntary Conciliation Boards and some 40 more Boards of the special type are on their way to establishment. We have heard this measure represented as a concession to agitation: whether or not that is true I leave to the judgment of those who care to look back and see what I said at this same dinner three years ago. If that was agitation my colleagues and I will gladly stand convicted as agitators

About nine months ago I visited the first Training Camps set up to provide industrial instruction for selected detenus; 58 of those men are now in process of starting their own businesses financed, supervised and helped in their buying and selling by the State. The output of these new factories has already been sold forward for the next year.

When I spoke to you last year the training farm for detenus at Maslandpur existed as a project only. It is now a thriving and modern organization where men are taught to grow good things and to sell them. The first batch of those who have undergone this training will shortly have passed out. Our

plans for setting them up as practical farmers are already maturing and we shall carry them through.

When I announced this scheme in the legislature I made it clear that we regarded it not merely as a scheme for detenus but as a means of striking a hammer-blow at unemployment as a whole, and it is our intention to redeem that promise. If we can succeed with these men we can succeed with others provided the necessary organization is set up and the necessary non-official co-operation is forthcoming. It is with this object in view that we have decided to authorize the establishment of an Industrial Credit Corporation and to guarantee it to a substantial extent against losses that may unavoidably be incurred in taking justifiable risks for the encouragement of small industries. I am happy to say that the necessary financial support from private sources is now assured, and the legislature has to-day set the seal of its approval upon our proposals.

We mean to extend similar facilities to progressive agriculture, and with the support of a public-spirited body of men we have planned to establish at Daulatpur in the district of Khulna an Institute of practical agriculture where qualified young men will be taught to combine outdoor labour with scientific knowledge, and will be equipped to form the advance guard of a great movement for enlightened agriculture in the province.

I have mentioned these things not by way of propaganda. They are not window-dressing schemes, hastily conceived or hurriedly put into execution in the last year of our existence as a

Government. They are successive steps in a programme foreshadowed here at this dinner three years ago and unfolded stage by stage in the fulness of time. They are, if I may say so, part of a programme that is not and cannot be the monopoly of any one political party and I believe that our successors will carry on this programme in its essential features, no matter what their political views may be or what else they may set out to achieve. It is in that belief that we have gone forward steadily in this last year, neither shirking the responsibility for what can be done now nor endeavouring for the sake of immediate credit to build in haste and faster than the foundations could stand.

It is in that spirit too that we have approached the problem of encouraging and co-ordinating those activities on the part of the officers of Government in the districts that go under the general name of Rural Uplift. There is nothing new about the idea of service on the part of officers of Government towards improving the lot of the people under their charge. What is new, in the sense that for some years it was temporarily obscured, is that work of this kind demands a legitimate and necessary contribution from every agency of Government in the districts.

A few years ago we used to hear, and sometimes still do hear, certain departments of Government spoken of as "nation building" departments. That is a phrase that doubtless had its value when it was coined and in its proper context; but like many good phrases that get into common use it obscures the fundamental truth that all departments of a

Government make their contribution to the building of the nation. In its public services the Government of a province possesses not only specialists in departmental administration capable of carrying out in detail a policy shaped at the centre, but men whose local knowledge and whose powers of initiative, organization and leadership are, if duly encouraged and co-ordinated, an asset of the greatest value to a progressive Government anxious to serve the people and to organize them for their own advancement.

I am not dealing in generalities but in hard concrete facts, and as one example of what I mean I will take a subject that may appeal to some of the hardest-headed among those present to-night—our old friend jute. Men had discussed for years the possibilities of controlling the output of jute with a view to maintaining a reasonable balance between supply and demand. All kinds of proposals had been suggested including the most elaborate legislative and administrative machinery, and as long ago as 1931 tentative efforts had been made for the first time on the part of Government to educate the cultivator in the advantages at that time of reducing his output. In 1934, however, there was applied to this problem for the first time the formula of organized and informed leadership as a means of conducting a systematic campaign in all the jute growing areas in the province to restrict the cultivation of jute to a specified extent. We have now had two years' experience of the results. I am not going to burden you with many figures, especially on a subject where figures can be so complicated and so easily manipulated: I will merely say this. In the

first year in which that policy was adopted its effectiveness may be judged by the difference in the extent to which jute was restricted in Bengal as compared with areas outside Bengal where the same vigorous policy had not been adopted. We have been told by some—and certain sections of the Press have never tired of telling us—that our policy of voluntary restriction under informed leadership has been a failure and that its failure has been proved by the results of the second year.

What are the facts? The second year, by which I mean the jute season that is now passing, was in every way most unfavourable to effective voluntary restriction. The previous season had ended with good prices after many cultivators had parted with their jute. Money was still scarce and those who had grown less the year before could not be blamed for wanting to secure the benefit of the better prices on a bigger crop this year. The weather at the time of sowing and during the growth of the crop was favourable both to increased acreage and to heavy production. But in fact there has been accomplished in these two years such a reduction in the total output that in spite of all the depressing propaganda to the contrary but helped no doubt by an unexpectedly buoyant market, the price of jute this year has remained firm and of recent months the Calcutta market has been forced to rise in recognition of the actual rise of prices in the mofussil itself. If the course of prices is studied month by month from the time in the Autumn of 1934 when the restriction scheme was launched, I believe it will be found, in fact I am sure it will be found, that an increase of more than 50 per cent. has come

about. Such an increase represents an addition to the cash resources of the cultivating classes of Bengal during the two years of something like nine crores.

In the matter of jute and all that it means to the province I claim that the policy of informed leadership through the agency of Government organization in the districts has been justified by success.

The same formula has been applied to other problems of long standing in rural Bengal and has worked. It had begun to work with water hyacinth even before the Bill was passed which gave the officers of Government statutory powers to deal with this menace; though the powers are now there to be used in cases of necessity, it is organized leadership and local enthusiasm that are making themselves felt in clearing the rural areas of this old and obstinate enemy.

In the past year we have been helped by the Government of India to finance in cash numerous projects for the improvement of rural Bengal: the results if set out in detail would make quite a solid report: but no less impressive would be a report showing how much has been added to the real wealth of the country by the organized voluntary efforts of the people themselves. We have not asked for detailed statistics of work like this and we do not propose to do so: the men who are engaged in it, whether officials or non-officials, are too busy getting on with it to spend their time writing reports, but wherever I have been and whenever I have talked with men from the districts I have had the same evidence of jungles cleared, lands

reclaimed for cultivation by drainage, canals or tanks re-excavated and villages improved either wholly or partially by organized voluntary effort that has made a permanent contribution to the real wealth and happiness of the people concerned.

We are not in a hurry about this work of rural uplift because we know that it is a job that for many years to come must occupy the energies of those who engage in it. We have no intention of putting it into manuals or codes or compressing it into the form of statistics: we have been content in these early stages to give free rein to the initiative of our officers and to support them in their efforts so far as lies in our power. We recognise that as experience is gained it will be necessary to adapt our machinery so as to provide for continuity and co-ordination of effort between the many agencies, both official and non-official, engaged in these tasks. Our own ideas are already taking shape as to how this should be done, and it will not be our fault if the lessons that have been learnt are lost to the future.

Now I want to say something about another aspect of nation building, namely, the welfare of the youth of the province. Youth is a problem that has been prominently before us in recent years and it is no source of pleasure to me or to any of my colleagues that in so many respects our attentions to youth have of necessity been of a repressive type. We owe a duty to society as a whole and if youth has gone wrong we cannot shirk that duty from motives of misplaced sentiment. I for one, so long as I retain any responsibility for the well-being and safety of society of this province, will

not shirk it. We have, however, made it clear that we are not impelled by motives of vindictiveness and we have given practical demonstration of our anxiety to reclaim those who have been misled and are prepared to return to saner and I hope to happier lives. But this does not absolve us from our responsibility for those who have not been misled and for the generations of youth yet to come; I do not propose to enter into controversy on the subject of education in general—but I believe there will be no controversy when I say that the health and happiness of the rising generation is a problem that must and will be attacked.

Here let me acknowledge the debt that we owe to one who is a firm believer in the younger generation and who for many years has been deeply interested in what are known as Youth Movements—I refer to General Lindsay. Since he came to us in Bengal, he has lost no opportunity during his travels of studying the problems of our own youth at first hand and placing his experience and his enthusiasm at our disposal. There is no civilized State in the world to-day that can afford to neglect the physical and recreational education of its young people; Germany for one has shown the world what can be done to remould a rising generation: whether the policy there followed will ultimately lead to good or evil we here are not qualified to say; but nobody can deny its effectiveness or ignore its lessons. There are in Bengal numerous organizations concerned in some way or other with the welfare of the young: their efforts are held back not merely by lack of finance but just as much by lack of co-ordinated leadership and trained organizers.

It must be our endeavour to provide not only the personnel to undertake adequate training of the young in healthy sports and recreations, but also to set up under the aegis of the State an all-embracing organization in which the trained specialist can work hand in hand with all those who in private life are genuinely anxious to devote some part of their energies to making the lives of the young fuller, happier and healthier. I would like to repeat what I said a few months ago to some parents and guardians after a very happy gathering of young people in the mofussil,—It was a wise man I told them who said of old “The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the teeth of the children are set on edge.” I mean no offence, but is it not just possible that in the stormy and contentious years through which Bengal has passed while the present elder generation has grown up there has been too much of strife and bitterness in the lives of the elders and too little of sweetness in the lives of the young?

Well, there is the problem. We are not going to solve it merely by issuing a Government resolution or by trying to make a cut and dried scheme before the 1st April next year. We do however recognise that the problem has to be faced and that it will want money; we believe that if we can prepare the way and arrive at concrete proposals, our successors in the future will not be unwilling to spend some portion of their augmented resources for so worthy a task.

It the meantime we propose to set up a small body of men both in the service of the Crown and in various walks of life to study this problem with the ultimate objective firmly in view: they will

consider by what stages that objective can be reached and which of those stages can be financed within the coming year, if those who will then be responsible for policy in Bengal should agree as to the urgency of having something done. For my part, if before the time comes for me to leave Bengal I can make any contribution towards starting this work for youth on sure foundations, I shall feel that I have made a parting gift of some value to the land we live in.

In this hope let me end the last review of the affairs of the province that I shall make at a St. Andrews' Dinner in Calcutta. By the time next year's dinner comes round I hope, God willing, to be on the high seas and by your courtesy it will fall to my successor or perhaps to his Chief Minister, whoever that may be, to repay your hospitality by inflicting upon you a political speech. Still I hope that many of us may meet again—perhaps at a Calcutta Dinner in London—or perhaps on the fairways—or even in the rough of St. Andrews. Wherever it may be we shall have happy memories in common of the hospitality, the friendliness and the good cheer of St. Andrews' Dinner in Calcutta.

His Excellency's Speech at the Legislative Council on 4th December 1936.

I have come here to-day to say goodbye at the end of the last session of the Bengal Legislative Council under the present Constitution.

Some of you have been members of this legislature since it first met in 1921, and though you may be looking forward—with varying degrees of confidence—to membership of a larger and more powerful Assembly or of a smaller and more exclusive Upper House, I dare say that on this occasion none of you will watch without a tinge of regret the passing of the Council that you know so well. Many, if not all of you, will carry away recollections not unhappy of triumphs and disappointments, of humour—good or bad—and of friendships that men make who come to respect each other's principles and abilities however greatly they may have differed in the rough and tumble of political controversy.

I share with you in sorrow that old and familiar faces are missing since I last addressed the Council. Maulvi Abul Kasem, that stout old warrior, has passed to his rest. Mr. Surendra Nath Law, Mr. McCluskie, Rai Sahib Panchanan Barma, Khan Bahadur Alimuzzaman Choudhury, Khan Bahadur Emaduddin Ahmed, are with us no more. All of these I knew personally. Your Secretary too, Mr. McKay, has been taken away at a time when both personally and officially his loss is a heavy blow to a legislature in a state of transition.

Before we part let us look back briefly at what this Council has accomplished in the 16 years of its existence.

Your predecessors in the first three Councils had a chequered career not lacking in excitement. They made two major contributions to the Statute Book of Bengal—the Act for ever associated with the great name of Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee that established the Corporation of Calcutta on its present basis and later the Act which amended the Law of Tenancy in Bengal. Like yourselves at a later date, they were called upon in 1922 to impose provincial taxation and did so in the form of amusements taxes and increases of stamp duty. For the most part however the composition and complexion of this provincial legislature were conditioned by political developments transcending the scope of purely provincial affairs and the death in 1925 of the late Mr. C. R. Das removed from the field of provincial politics a strong personality who, whatever may be said of his previous negative attitude, had, if I mistake not, begun to conceive the idea not merely of constructive, as opposed to destructive, opposition, but even of active co-operation.

The present Council has enjoyed a long life—longer than could be foreseen when the first decision to extend its term was taken. It has been accused by critics of truckling to the Executive—but I venture to say that in its record of constructive legislation this last Council can challenge comparison with others and its members can find ground for solid satisfaction.

In the first year of its life this Council passed the Primary Education Act—a far-reaching statute which though long kept dormant owing to economic depression is, if I am not mistaken, still very much alive.

The law relating to local self governing bodies has been entirely overhauled by a series of enactments starting with a complete refashioning of the law of Municipalities and ending with the bill that you have just passed which opens up new avenues of development in local self-government in the districts.

The law governing the incidence of Cess has been completely remodelled and even though its practical application has disclosed difficulties of detail, the principles therein laid down are of basic importance to the equitable incidence of this form of taxation.

An amendment of the Court of Wards Act is helping to save more than one old family from disruption, while in the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act you have enacted a measure of pacification and hope for the rural masses which has already come into practical operation.

In passing an Act to regulate and control Wakfs, the administration of which has successfully begun, you have given a lead in this respect to every province in India.

In the Bengal Development Act you have passed a measure of great potentialities; its results are necessarily slow in view of the elaborate preliminary investigations necessary in the case of every large scheme: but in the hands of a progressive

Government those results will be sure and of incalculable benefit to the country.

Like the Primary Education Act, the Act to constitute a Waterways Trust has been held in abeyance for the return of better times; but my Government fully realise the vital importance of this measure to Eastern Bengal: there it forms a counterpart to the road development which in other parts of the province the Central Road Fund and the Motor Vehicles Tax Fund have made possible. It is our intention that your labours on the Waterways Act shall not have been in vain.

I do not propose to refer in detail to the work of the present session which is fresh in your minds: I would only say that the legislation now passed and the supplies now voted have enabled my Government both to bring to completion important projects of long standing and to initiate with the sanction of the legislature new schemes rich in promise.

You have been assailed for your support of the Executive Government in enacting measures to deal effectively with organised disorder and terrorism but you may have the consolation of knowing that thereby you have helped to surmount the greatest obstacle to political progress in Bengal. In the permanence of this legislation Bengal has a guarantee for the future that she never enjoyed in the past.

Let us be under no illusion about this. It is only because the gangster and the gunman have been brought under control that Bengal is now in a position to march in step with the other provinces

of India on the path to responsible Government. There can be no such things as free elections or democratic Government in a country that tolerates the rule of the political gangster and if men believe in free institutions they need not be ashamed of having the courage to defend them.

Last but by no means least, by your enactment in 1935 of the Taxation Bills relating to Court-fees, Stamps, Electricity, Tobacco and Amusements, you have made a contribution to the resources of the province far greater than the actual taxation itself. Whatever may be your opinions on the Niemeyer report I personally have no doubt that your willingness to impose taxation in 1935 stood Bengal in good stead when the time came for a fresh assessment of the burdens and deserts of the various provinces.

I have to thank the Council for its co-operation in difficult times during my term of office and I thank your President for his unfailing courtesy to me and to my Government no less than for his staunch upholding of the traditions and prestige of the legislature.

And now the time has come when you must go forth into the wilderness from which some of you at any rate will return triumphant though perhaps with battered plumes. I can bid you "God speed" but I am precluded from sweetening my farewell by adding a wish for your safe return. I can however, and do, wish you all good fortune and happiness in whatever walks of life it may please Providence to direct your steps.

I now order that this Council do stand prorogued.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Unveiling
of the Bust of the late Sir Provash
Chunder Mitter on 4th December 1936.***

It is now over two years since Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, Vice-President of the Executive Council of this province passed away, and at the request of the subscribers to the Memorial Fund I have to-day come to unveil his bust in this Council House.

It is perhaps unnecessary for me to detail to you the life, work and achievements of Sir Provash, or to re-emphasize the love which he bore for his province and the persistence with which he sought to promote its interests. I have on a previous occasion, when his loss was recent, paid tribute to his memory. Now when some two and a half years have passed we can pause to assess, perhaps with greater accuracy, his value and his stature as a statesman.

Looking back over the decade preceding his death we shall find there are few developments of political importance in Bengal to which he did not make his distinctive contribution. I would refer especially to the amendment of the Tenancy Act in 1928, his presence as a delegate at the first and second Round Table Conferences and his advocacy of the cession of the jute tax to Bengal. For practically the whole period of the system of Government which has come to be known as "dyarchy" Sir Provash was unflagging in his zeal and enthusiasm to show that his countrymen could

work and would work whatever system of Government was in force and he was most anxious to prove that they were able to bear the full responsibility of Government. It is therefore most appropriate that his memorial should be placed within these walls and that he should be remembered in this place as a painstaking and zealous worker and a far-sighted politician, whose judgment has not been belied by events.

Before unveiling this memorial I would however wish to sound a personal note. Sir Provash was for nearly two years my senior colleague with whom I was constantly in touch in days which were more anxious than these. One might perhaps have expected him, as one whose lifetime had been devoted to Bengal, to have betrayed some irritation or impatience over difficulties and delays in administration caused by those whose views and methods he respected little. Now that we have steered into calmer waters, with a fairer prospect I hope opening before us, we may be tempted to belittle the value of shrewdness and steadfastness under the stresses and strains of those anxious days. Of Sir Provash I can only say this, that whilst we worked together in the administration of this province he was at all times calm and collected, and to me the value of his experience and wisdom was heightened by his constant good nature, and by his quiet sense of humour.

I have now much pleasure in unveiling the memorial bust of Sir Provash Chunder Mitter.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Meeting
at the Grand Hotel to welcome General
Evangeline Booth of the Salvation Army
on 15th December 1936.***

Once again after a lapse of four years I have the pleasure of welcoming the General of the Salvation Army to this city.

The work that the Salvation Army does and the value which the world sets upon that work call for no elaborate exposition by myself. Suffice it to say that not only in the places we might expect but also at times and places where we might least expect them, we are accustomed to see the officers of the Salvation Army, men and women alike, engaged in their battle for humanity.

In this city the uniform of the Army is well known. In the furthest and remotest of mofussil stations, I am told, it periodically appears. To those in need it brings a message of hope and encouragement; to the prosperous it foretells the plunging of the hand into the pocket, or the opening of the drawer which contains the cheque-book. I think I may say that whenever the Salvation Army Officer appears in the mofussil, or in the midst of the hurry and scurry of this city, the donations which are made are always given willingly and in the knowledge that they will be applied to the best of purposes.

In any problem that calls for organised effort on a large scale in reclaiming those whom society rejects we know that we can count on the Salvation Army to help to the best of its ability. I have

referred more than once to the problem of beggars in Calcutta; in the plans formulated for dealing with this social evil the segregation and treatment of leprous mendicants forms an important part and it is to that part of the plan that the Salvation Army has offered to make its characteristic contribution.

The work of the Army among the so-called "criminal tribes" is well known. I would refer further to the Women's and Children's Home which I opened at Behala last year. Too often neglected and uncared for even in the ordinary course of life, when women turn to an immoral mode of living they have hitherto been utterly cast out. The message of the Salvation Army, however, here as elsewhere, is a message of hope for all, without distinction of class or creed.

It is to visit the scene of this campaign and to inspire her Army to greater efforts in the struggle that General Booth has come to India. The name of Booth is a household word in England and America, and is well known in every quarter of the world. The present General, the third of that name, and a daughter of the founder of the Army, has known and formed part of the history of the Salvation Army since it began. As a young girl she worked as Captain of a corps in a London area, and at the age of twenty-three was appointed to command the Salvation Army operations in London. Since then she has held commands of higher and higher importance—first in Canada, then the United States and, so far as the Salvation Army organisation is concerned, she now commands the world.

The institution of which she is the head has never been a placid society, happy if it can show some good results somewhere, and confident that it will muddle through if things go badly wrong. Its members have insisted on going to all places and amongst all manner of persons, to see for themselves and to right what wrongs they see. General Booth in the highest position which the Army has to offer, is not content to direct the manoeuvres of her followers from the ease and comfort of Headquarters. She too is busy looking into things herself—inspired by the same spirit in which the Army was founded now so many years ago.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I think General Booth needs no further introduction from me. I would however give the General a strong assurance of the warmth with which we welcome her, and which I am sure you will wish to show her in the usual way.

His Excellency's Speech at the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Central Bank of India on 12th January 1937.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have just listened to an able and interesting speech from Sir Sorabji Pochkhanawala whose own career in banking entitles him to be heard with respect. We have also heard in the person of Mr. Khaitan, a speaker whose position in the sphere of Indian Commerce in Calcutta is well known to you all.

Far be it from me in such company to tempt you into the deep waters of the history and theory of banking. I would rather confine myself to an expression of my pleasure at being present here to-day, on this occasion that celebrates a period of twenty-five years' enterprise crowned with success in the development of an Indian Bank on modern principles.

Yet bankers alone cannot make a successful banking system: it needs at least two categories of people as well—the people who put their money in, and the people with whom the banker can place that money, not only with profit but also with the assurance that he will get it back when he needs it—for, to convert an old phrase, the banker must always be in the position of having at hand enough of Peter's money to satisfy the demands of Paul. That, however, is the banker's business and I am digressing.

I have referred to two classes of people apart from the banker. Between these two classes, the depositor representing the results of success and the borrower representing the potentialities of enterprise, the banker is the bridge: upon the confidence that he can inspire in the one class and the soundness of his judgment in appraising the merits of the other the capacity and strength of that bridge depend.

But though the banker may build the bridge and provide the facilities, the extent to which those facilities can be exploited must depend on the character of the people themselves and their progressive education in the meaning and uses of banking.

There is another function of certain banks—namely, the creation of credit to give impetus to enterprise and to set in motion those great reserves of power that lie dormant in the unused energies of a people and the undeveloped reserves of their country. In my own country of Scotland, it is an accepted fact that the practical initiative of the banks a century and a half ago did enable great and lasting developments to be brought about in the industry and prosperity of the country: but if I may say so with all the modesty that becomes a Scotsman, banks alone could not have effected that progress had it not been for the great natural resources latent in the country itself and in the character of its people.

Here however I must restrain myself: in venturing on the subject of the creation of credit we are getting beyond the realm of joint stock

banking and approaching those deep waters that it is my intention on this occasion to avoid.

Let me merely say this that in providing every facility for the depositor and encouraging both enterprise and responsibility on the part of the borrower, a bank in close touch with the people of India may render great and lasting service in the exploitation for the people's benefit of their vast and too often latent potentialities.

In wishing the Central Bank a long and successful career in the new regime of banking in India I trust it may serve not only as a proof of what Indian bankers can do, but also as means of stimulating among those who come within its sphere of influence those qualities of confidence, enterprise and responsibility upon which alone the successful growth of banking institutions must depend.

Let me in conclusion thank you Mr. Khaitan and the members of your Reception Committee for your hospitality and the welcome you have given me to-day.

His Excellency's Speech at the Centenary Celebrations and Prize Distribution of the Barrackpore Government Park School on 17th January 1937.

MR. HEADMASTER, BOYS AND OLD BOYS OF THE SCHOOL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It was only a few weeks ago that I attended a ceremony on the other side of the river to celebrate the centenary of a College. To-day I have come to open the centenary celebrations of your school, and I have great pleasure, Mr. Headmaster, in declaring the celebrations open.

I suppose as time goes by and as the centenaries of various educational institutions fall due, we shall frequently be reminded of the coming of western education to this country a hundred years ago.

It is not my purpose to-day to go back over the long history of western education in this country, and I know that the arguments for and against it have been thrashed out a hundred times since the writing of Lord Macaulay's famous minute.

But I am often led to wonder, exactly to what extent these schools and colleges that were set up here resembled their counter-parts in England, and when and how far their traditions have since diverged and differed.

If one may judge from the school stories of the last century I would say that the English school of last century must have been a somewhat unpleasant place. Perhaps the school stories are exaggerated,

the bullyings and thrashings laid on too thickly in order to maintain some interest in the reader ; but on the whole the students of those days appear to have led a fairly miserable life. By comparison, I think, the school boy in this country has escaped many of the rigours of the English system.

But whilst the traditions of your school have been developing here by the banks of the Hooghly, great changes have come over the English system of education on which it was modelled. The scope of studies in England has been both widened and brought into closer touch with life and current affairs—we hope without sacrifice of the ideal of scholarship. The process is no new one. It was over a hundred years ago that Charles Lamb wrote “The least concern of a teacher in the present day is to inculcate grammar rules. The modern school-master is expected to know a little of every thing, because his pupil is required not to be entirely ignorant of any thing”. And since those days we have gone far.

Also, I think, the school-boy in the west comes less into contact with the rod than formerly. Whether this is because the new education is more congenial to him, since he has a wider and more interesting range of subjects and is less inclined to let his attention wander, I do not know. Certainly the devil that is in all school-boys is given a greater amount of free play in the football and cricket fields ; and the scrapes and japes of his great grandfather who, as the books would have us believe, bullied his juniors unmercifully and swam the mill-stream at midnight, may have less appeal to him after an afternoon of strenuous exercise.

And here I think we have in this country one divergence from the west which we should consider carefully. Not many schools in this country are ready to organise the leisure of their pupils as well as to direct the study of book learning. Long hours of the day time are spent in the class room and long hours of the night reading alone or with the private tutor. I am glad to note that in the headmaster's report of this school ample reference has been made to the facilities for exercise and play. Not only is provision made for football—that most popular of all games in India—but also for cricket and athletics. And you have taken to scouting and cubbing I am glad to know in an increasing degree, and have a goodly number of members of the Junior Red Cross. There are I know many schools which take an interest similar to yours in these matters; but in the province as a whole I think there is great amount of lee-way to make up. I believe however that public opinion is at last being stirred, and that in the future we shall find more and more schools considering it their duty to pay as much attention to the physical well-being of their pupils as they do to their study and capacity to pass examinations.

On the last four occasions on which I have presided at the annual prize-giving at this school I have attempted to address the boys rather than the grown-ups. I fear that to-day I have departed from that custom and that the boys themselves deserve some consolation. They may at any rate console themselves with the thought that centenaries only happen once in a hundred years—but apart from that there is one thing which I have to say, which I am sure they will find most

interesting; and indeed it is a point on which school boys of all ages and countries have had the same opinion. And that is that I have asked your headmaster to give a holiday of ten days to you in honour of your centenary, and on the clear understanding that he will not do it again for a hundred years, he has agreed to do so.

Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, I will not keep you any longer. This is the last occasion on which I shall preside at the prize-giving of this school and in saying goodbye I wish it the best of luck in its second century and indeed as long as it endures.

His Excellency's Speech at the St. John Ambulance Bengal Competition on 19th January 1937.

Before I proceed to speak of ourselves and our activities may I take this opportunity to welcome publicly Colonel Sleeman who is visiting India, as Chief Commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas. He also comes in another capacity—as the representative of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught who is the Grand Prior of this ancient yet progressive Order of Chivalry.

Colonel Sleeman bears a name well known to history in India. His grandfather Major-General Sir William Sleeman—better known as Colonel Sleeman—was both feared and respected by evil-doers in the past century and is remembered with gratitude as the man who freed the country from the now almost unheard of crime of Thuggee. Colonel Sleeman himself is here on a different mission but his too is a mission of service to India, and we look forward to results of consequence from the encouragement and impetus that his visit will give both to the Brigade and to the Association.

I am glad to say that we are already moving forward. On the occasion of the annual competition a year ago I expressed the hope that the work of the Association might spread in the interior of Bengal with the co-operation of public-spirited members of the medical profession and residents in the districts prepared to give up a portion of their time to its work; I reiterated this hope some two months later at the annual meeting of the Association.

I acknowledge to-day the efforts of those who in at least ten new centres outside Calcutta have organised classes in First Aid, Home Nursing, Domestic Hygiene or Mothercraft. Throughout the Province 152 classes have been held and of these 59 have been outside Calcutta, all of them instructed and subsequently examined by the voluntary service of medical practitioners. Two thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine persons have been examined—with almost 90 per cent. passes—against 1711 persons who received instruction in 1935. Of the certificates issued 903 are to mufussil candidates and 197 of these are from new centres. Small figures these for an area as large as Bengal, but they suffice to show that a beginning has been made. I have to acknowledge the voluntary co-operation in several centres of the medical and administrative officers of Government and of members and officers of local bodies. It would be invidious to mention names or to draw comparisons in what is after all purely voluntary work but on examining the reports received from the interior I have observed with interest that among those who have found time to give impetus to this work are some whose official burdens are by no means the lightest.

I welcome the fact that the Bratachari Society has been quick to secure training and recognition for a number of its members and commend this method of qualifying for service to all organisations that seek the uplift of the Province.

In saying this I do not overlook the fact that other organisations such as Scouts or Girl Guides have their own training, their own standards of recognition and their own competitions,

and I am glad to see Scouts competing in the events to-day. I could wish their teams were more numerous, but realise that they are pre-occupied with the Jamboree.

The competitions this year have produced forty team entries and have been keenly contested. The level of efficiency still remains, I am assured, at a high standard.

I congratulate the East Indian Railway Auxiliary Force team on winning the Calcutta Open Challenge Cup for a final competition between the winning teams of the various events.

The Eastern Bengal Railway Auxiliary Force team deserves mention for its high performance in the Auxiliary Force teams event where it was narrowly beaten by the eventual winners of the Challenge Cup.

The 2nd/1st Calcutta Scout Team put up a good display in the Winning Teams event.

Once again, it is impossible for me on behalf of the Association to thank individually all those who are carrying on its work, and especially those who are willing to give up their own time to the furtherance of these activities simply because they believe in the urgency and necessity of the work. I am sure you will wish me to express your gratitude to those who have been responsible for the organisation and smooth working of to-day's competitions and to the Calcutta Football Club for the loan of their ground. And finally I must offer my congratulations to all those who have received the prizes and trophies which I have just distributed.

***His Excellency's Presidential Address to
the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal on
the 15th February 1937.***

Before I proceed to the subject on which I propose to address you this evening may I say how sensible I am of the honour you have done me by electing me to be your President. I am happy moreover that in this year of its annals the Society has by permission of His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor become the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal. This title is a recognition that the Society has earned for itself a worthy place among the learned societies of the Empire.

I have to record the loss by death of two outstanding members, Sir Rajendra Nath Mookherjee and Colonel Knowles. In Sir Rajendra Nath we have lost a personality whose steadfastness of principle, keenness and balance of intellect, and record of successful endeavour will long stand as an example to his countrymen, and I personally have like many of you lost a valued friend. He was a member of over thirty years' standing, our President in 1924 and 1925 and an Honorary Fellow since 1929.

Colonel Knowles, a member since 1920 and a Fellow since 1927, was for many years a tireless and enthusiastic Medical Secretary of this Society, a man of great industry and deep learning and of a most winning disposition. In recognition of his services to tropical medicine I had the pleasure, rather more than a year ago, of investing him with the Insignia of a Companion of the Order of the

Indian Empire and was struck then by the precarious state of his health. He refused to give up and died, as no doubt he wished, in harness.

. During this year our General Secretary, Mr. Van Manen, who had not had leave for nearly nine years, was granted six months' leave for medical reasons. We are delighted to see him back with us reduced in figure but restored in health and as exuberant as ever in learning and good humour.

Among gifts to the Society worthy of special mention I have to record an excellent portrait in oils painted by Atul Bose of the late Sir C. C. Ghosh, President of the Society in 1932 and 1933 and a member of the Council for several years. It was presented by his brother Mr. D. C. Ghosh.

We have also received as a permanent loan a collection of 12,000 Sanskrit Manuscripts made over by the Government of India.

A STUDY OF THE CONCEPTION OF POWER IN THE SOCIAL ORGANISM.*

The choice of the subject on which I propose to address you this evening requires some comment. Before being concerned with the art of Government I was for some time a student of science. The preoccupations of later years have left me no leisure to pursue those earlier studies in detail but perhaps as a result I have been led into speculations that would not have occurred to me had I myself developed on other lines.

* In the text the term "Social Organism" is used as including both social and political developments unless the contrary is made clear in the context.

I propose to suggest under this heading—
 “A Study of the Conception of Power in the Social Organism” a few reflections which attempt to bring the conclusions of the biologist into relation with the conclusions—still inchoate—of the student of the social and political organisation of mankind.

Necessarily with the very limited leisure at my disposal, I must confine my attempt to suggesting fields of enquiry rather than putting forward conclusions: and should any proposition that I seem to suggest appear untenable let me take refuge in the quotation that “a false theory that can be compared with facts may be more useful at a given stage of development than a true one which is beyond the comprehension of the time.”

Power is a concept common to biological, philosophical and political studies. In the biological sphere power is a characteristic of every living thing that is capable of influencing some other thing: in some form or other it is an essential concomitant of life: in the sphere of philosophy the study of power is the essence of the subject. What is the nature of this thing that impinging from outside upon the bodies and minds of men can change their form and their development? What is its source—how does it behave—how should men comport themselves towards it? The study of politics is concerned with the basis, the nature, the obligations and the purposes of authority, which is but another name for power in the hands of the body politic.

But my theme is the attitude of men towards power rather than power itself: what have men

conceived its nature to be? Is there traceable in those various conceptions any development comparable to the development in the physical organism that is known to the biologist as evolution?

If there is any such development is it progressive—does it point to an ultimate conclusion—can we compare the attitude towards power or authority of different men at different times and say that this or that attitude is an index of a higher development in the social organism than some other attitude? If so, can we trace anything like an ordered evolution in the social and political development of mankind and can we forecast its direction?

I do not presume to answer these questions but if I should in this brief address provoke thought or stimulate research by others equipped by leisure and talents for the task, I shall make no apology for having failed to contribute a more technical thesis to the records of this Society.

The history of man may be described in one aspect as an endeavour first to adjust himself to his environment and later to control that environment itself: by his success in adjustment—by a process of submission to the apparently inevitable—he has survived: by the development of reason he has been emboldened to believe that not content with submission to environment he may aspire to control the forces and conditions that surround him and through them to control his own evolution. Comparably perhaps with this change in outlook, the attitude of man towards natural forces and social authority has also changed.

Let us cull a few specimens. Browning in his poem "Caliban upon Setebos" gives us a picture of a primitive man's conception of power—an imaginative picture perhaps but not for that reason necessarily at variance with inferences drawn from scientific enquiry.

Caliban the half-man, lying at his ease on a fine afternoon, speculates on Setebos his god—invests him with his own characteristics—finds him powerful and capricious—why not?—is capricious himself for that matter. Somewhere above Setebos, he thinks, there may be something remote and incomprehensible that he can only call "The Quiet"—but that is no concern of his: Setebos is the one that matters to him. And when suddenly a fierce tropical storm breaks in upon his meditations Caliban curses himself for daring to speculate upon his god and grovels in terror and penance before the wrath of Setebos.

We thought perhaps we had travelled a long way from that conception of power but it only needed the capricious insecurity of a world war to bring it back. A modern American novelist* writing shortly after the war compares the race of mankind to a swarm of ants trying to escape from a log burning on his camp fire. "I remember thinking at the time" he writes "that it was the end of the world and a splendid chance to be a Messiah and lift the log off the fire.....But I did not do anything but throw a tin cup of water on the log so that I would have the cup empty to put whisky in.....I think the cup of water on the burning log only steamed the ants". The old

* "A Farewell to Arms." Ernest Hemingway, Ch XLI.

conception of power is there though the grovelling and the terror has yielded place to grim endurance: except for that we are back at the beginning of the circle. But perhaps this conception of the nature of power is not the whole truth.

From Caliban to magic—to spells, and to the “mantra” in its primitive conception seems but a natural process. Man is still weak in the physical forces he can bring to bear on nature, weak also except in the strength of his own arm in the forces he can bring to bear on his fellow men. But he has begun to perceive a sequence in things, and if one thing can follow another or be caused by another, why should he not hit on the means of causing things far beyond the limit of his own strength?

Power itself becomes an abstract conception. An interesting illustration of this conception is quoted in a book by Dr. G. van der Leeuw* from an account written in 1899 by Codrington, an English missionary, of the Melanesians. “He drew attention to a remarkable conception of that people which he found indicated as “*Mana*”. He describes it as a force, not physical, but also not spiritual in one sense—in a certain sense it is “supernatural”. It makes a thing—a man—an animal into what they are”. I cannot help thinking of the Platonic “Idea” as an interesting gloss—but to return to *Mana*. “If anything is great or very powerful, or dangerous, then the presence of much *Mana* is indicated. The whole of the Melanesian religion consists in the obtaining of this *Mana* for oneself, or in contriving that it works for one’s own good.”

* Introduction to the History of Religion—Van der Leeuw, Haarlem, 1924.

That last observation could be applied to much political theory and practice to-day: but let me continue. "This force may best be compared to an electric current. Something may be charged with it, and then its force develops into a beneficent or dangerous direction. One can do much with it but has also to be very careful with it". I am tempted to compare an ancient and very true Chinese proverb which says—"Don't ride on a tiger—you can't dismount at will". In other words "Don't catch a wolf by the ears."

To master and employ this mysterious quality instead of dreading and evading it is the beginning of magic: it is also the beginning* of conscious human development. To understand it and to know the ends for which it should be used is the purpose of philosophy, politics and morality.

Magic is power only so long as it works: but in so far as the performer can induce others to believe that it will work, magic still retains its potency over the human mind. †"The universe is under the power of the gods—the gods are under the power of mantrams: the mantrams are under the power of the Brahmins: therefore the Brahmins are our gods." This is a quotation that may sound strange to modern political thinkers, but is it so far removed from the ideas of those who in the political sphere pin their faith to doctrines not founded upon experiment but formulated *a priori* for acceptance as a creed? Looking at large portions of the world to-day can it be denied that magic spells long

* Dictionary of Philosophy and Psychology, Vol. II, pp. 35-36.

† Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics, Vol. 3, p. 441.

discredited by experiment in the sphere of the natural sciences still retain their potency in the sphere of political theory? But I am digressing.

While men were still attempting to discover the secret of control over the forces of nature, others, perhaps stronger of arm, perhaps with a more limited and more practical vision, had demonstrated the power that can be attained by organising and controlling their fellow men. We do not know when first the tribe arose from the family to become a nation or when first a nation became an empire, but of this we can be fairly sure that the process was one of discipline and organisation—of the growth of law—not by any means what we might regard as just laws—but of well recognised laws made by men for their own purposes; we see man building up within an incomprehensible universe a comprehensible microcosm—an environment which he could control. Power takes on a new aspect—it becomes a force consciously wielded and directed to definite ends—futile ends perhaps because they may not have been the ultimate ends towards which the social organism must move or be moved if it is to survive.

At the close of the eighteenth century Tshaka,* the head of a small tribe of Zulus, set out to master his neighbours by organising his tribesmen into regiments after an example originally derived from the Europeans. He carried his organisation of his fellow men to the point of forbidding, under pain of death, any intercourse between the sexes except under licence—a licence granted only as a reward

* "Tshaka, the great Zulu Despot," James Stuart, "United Empire", 1924 (Vol. XV, new series).

to the bravest and most successful of his regiments. The coward or the regiment that failed in battle was ruthlessly wiped out. In the eighteen years or so of his rule, we are told, he directly or indirectly caused the death of about two million souls and revolutionized the lives of the population within a radius of 500 to 1,000 miles from his capital. His social system lasted till the Zulu War of 1879; it produced, we are told, "that innocence and general attractiveness that we habitually associate with naive intelligence, strong physique and an exacting foe." But its basis was in fear and its justification was success in war: with failure in war and removal of fear it ended. It is interesting to be told that the occasion—I do not say the root cause—of that war was the escape of a Zulu girl and her recapture by the Zulus in British territory.

I need not refer in this company to the great empires of history of which none have survived intact as social organisations: but whatever the fate of the individual enterprize, the conception of power derived from the organisation of mankind has survived.

Now let us come to a conception of power in the universe so revolutionary that even to-day it remains no more than a conviction. I refer to the conception that all the forces in the universe including those which underlie the development of man himself as a physical, social and moral being are subject to principles which by analogy can be described as laws: moreover, that those laws are essentially good if only because, being inevitable, they constitute the criterion of what is good: and

that in the knowledge and understanding of those laws—could man ever understand them—lies the knowledge of good and evil and of man's ultimate destiny. This is a conception which in a loose kind of way is so often taken for granted that we forget how revolutionary such an idea was and is, and how profound are its implications. Its precise origin in point of history is so far as I know untraced, but we can say that at one period at least—between roughly the seventh and the second century before the Christian era—such a conception had appeared in the East and in the Mediterranean, sometimes in the form of religious teaching and at other times in that of philosophical speculation.

What is the basis of this conception? Did man import the conception of order into the universe merely on the analogy of the partial order he had established in his own social microcosm and found to be better for his immediate purposes than absence of order? Or may it be that in the search after the true basis and uses of power in the social organism man is seeking for something real and ultimately discoverable because that and nothing else will ultimately make possible his survival and continued evolution as a rational species?

It is at any rate a fact that from this same period date the first recorded speculations on the basis, the nature and the purpose of authority in the social and political microcosm. It is obvious that the natural and political sciences have not kept pace in development, the one at different times seeming to outstrip the other. Men were of necessity experimenting in the social organism

and getting empirical results long before the beginning of scientific experiment as we understand it; but unlike the man of science the ruler of men cannot control his experiment and, if one fails, he may be too late to try another.

Nevertheless, variations are discernible in the conception of power in the social sphere. As to its basis, it has been conceived as based on fear, on magic or its equivalent, on worship and on rational acquiescence arising from understanding. Social power must from the earliest times have been recognised as accompanied by responsibility—if only a responsibility for the preservation of the ruler himself. The so-called democratic political thought of Greece recognised the responsibility of the State only as extending to the interests of those of its component individuals who were entitled to the full rights of citizenship: in mediæval Europe States and their populations were patrimonies to be inherited or acquired by marriage or warfare; and to Bacon* the prime responsibility was for the preservation and aggrandisement of the State itself. That the State or the social organism should be responsible for providing the greatest scope for the physical, intellectual and moral development of all individuals within its confines is still a new conception; and linked with it is the conception of the structure of the State as a thing that itself must be open to change and development, in order to provide that changing environment in which man may continue his further evolution as a rational being.

As to the employment of power some regard it as an evil to be avoided: others would contrive a

* Bacon, Essay 29.

balance of authority in the social organism, to maintain just that essential degree of stability and material prosperity that may permit the development of the individual; others again conceive of power in the social organism as a thing to be centred in strong hands, in order that the individual life may be organised to fulfil the predetermined purposes of the ruler. One school of thought conceives the free working of the individual reason as the only means by which the true nature and uses of authority in the social organism can be ultimately discovered. Another sees men in the mass like a bar of soft iron, its molecules each magnetic but neutralizing each other, and needing only the application of an external magnetic force to draw them into unison and convert the inert mass itself into a powerful magnet to be employed by the master mind.

I do not say that in practice any of these conceptions is held and acted on to the exclusion of the other by any particular type of body politic. Democracies may be capricious, incomprehensible and tyrannical in no less degree than autocracies may have shown toleration and enlightenment. The most convinced believers in rational consent as the basis of authority may be led into the most drastic interference with individual liberty in the attempt to secure that environment of stability and prosperity without which social evolution cannot proceed: the believers in dominant personality may often trim their sails to the wind: but the differences in the underlying conception of authority remain.

Such then are some of the variants of men's conception of power in the social organism. Have they a comparative value and if so by what standard can we value them? Is it possible to say that one is more likely to be on the main line of evolution than another?

Clearly no one can say that any of these conceptions has alone survived to the extinction of another. Yet this also is not surprising for evolution does not work in a straight line, and the data of history for all their volume and variety are not comparable to the data of experimental science.

This is what Fisher* says after completing a study beginning with primitive man and ending with Communism and Fascism :

"One intellectual excitement has, however, been denied me. Men wiser and more learned than I have discerned in history a plot, a rhythm, a pre-determined pattern. These harmonies are concealed from me. I can see only one emergency following upon another as wave follows upon wave, only one great fact with respect to which, since it is unique, there can be no generalizations, only one safe rule for the historian: that he should recognize in the development of human destinies the play of the contingent and the unforeseen. This is not a doctrine of cynicism and despair. The fact of progress is written plain and large on the page of history; but progress is not a law of nature. The ground gained by one generation may be lost by the next. The thoughts of men may flow into the channels which lead to disaster and barbarism."

* A History of Europe. H. A. L. Fisher, Vol. I, Preface.

I venture to think, however, that this conclusion is not at variance with the conclusions of biology. Biological science has long given up the conception of evolution as a process free from chance or excluding the exercise of choice; yet reviewing as it attempts to do a period as far exceeding the known history of man as a millenium exceeds a day, science believes it can discern comprehensible developments if the period chosen be long enough. The problem for the political philosopher is whether he can forecast those developments and whether the study of the natural sciences can help him to do so.

Let us try to project ourselves back to the age of the giant Dinosaur or the Pterodactyl of the Jurassic period; could we have imagined that those great creatures would survive only as fossil remains? We do not know exactly what our own ancestors were like in those ages but we do know that they, the earliest mammals, and the Dinosaurs were contemporaneous and sprang from the same common stock. What chance or choice caused that other branch of the family to break off and develop into the Dinosaurs while our ancestors developed by infinitely slow degrees into men is still a matter for speculation, but when first the brothers separated and the cousins grew further apart who could have known—as we believe that we know now—that the extreme and highly specialized development however much more formidable in its own environment was the one less likely to survive in a changing world?

Is it possible that some form of social organism will eventually emerge and survive as the most

suitable environment made by man—or through man—for his further evolution?—and if so which of the social organisms that we know will be its parent or parents? May it be that here, too, the extreme manifestations are doomed to extinction? An interesting speculation!

Closing his address* to this Society six years ago your then President, Colonel Seymour Sewell, said:

“I would on the other hand postulate that man has, or in the very near future will have, rendered himself so independent of his environment that it will no longer be able to affect his physical characters and that if there is to be any further evolution, this must be the result of his own mental processes.”

That statement, I think, excludes the possibility of cataclysm brought about either by the forces of nature or by the abuse of man's own powers—but leaving that aside, does not Colonel Sewell's conclusion amount to this, that it is in the social rather than in the individual organism that we must look for evolution in the future?

I do not venture to state this as a theory—I merely put it forward as a speculation. But since the different groups into which mankind is divided can no longer, even if they would, isolate themselves one from another, it would seem possible that if man is to evolve as both a rational and a social being, there must also evolve a social microcosm wherein the basis, the nature and the uses of authority will be recognised universally and rationally both by those who exercise it and by those upon whom it is exercised.

* Annual Address to the Asiatic Society of Bengal, 1930-31.

Whether or not there will be any evolution on such lines must remain a matter of belief or lack of belief: should it ever occur it may not be in the time of any descendant of ours whose conceptions of the nature of power we can envisage with accuracy. But let us not fall into the error of assuming that such an evolution must naturally take place.

Once again an analogy from biological studies is of interest. In the biological world the individual organism bears traces of its primæval history and development, of which the significance may be discernible only to the man of science: thus also the mind of man is a complex entity with a long history. It may well be that in the differing political organisms of the world to-day lie differences not to be explained by causes within the scope of recorded history: if so, there is no reason to presume that the different races of the world will necessarily react in the same way to the same political, cultural and economic influences. We may well be still at the stage when each may require something distinctive in its political organism to satisfy some deep laid tendency, different in essence and persisting through long periods of cultural or political assimilation only to reassert itself at some later epoch.

In the German a combination of mysticism and docility with irrepressible vigour of race may be an underlying factor in the history of his social and political development. In Italy there is a people with proud memories of empire long dis-united and politically impotent—a people whose history shows a strange combination of exuberance

of talent and asceticism. When in Western Europe the temporal power of the Roman Emperors remained distinct from the power of the Church was it an accident that the Orthodox Church became the Church of Russia—a Church identified completely with the temporal power—or was there then some tendency to absolutism that still expresses itself to-day?

I would not be so rash as to generalize about India but it is, I think, true to say that in India until recent times the main current of thought was concerned with the development of the individual and the sanctity of his purely social environment using the word "social" in its narrower sense: it regarded his reactions to mundane events as more important than the events themselves. The social organism was merely a medium in which man had to work out his own salvation—not a plastic medium susceptible of control but a rigid and unalterable one. To such thought the political structure was a mere superimposition and irrelevant so long as the social structure was kept intact. It was, I think, Akbar who first conceived the practical possibility of a unified political, cultural, and possibly even social organism for India as a whole—at about the same time as the first beginnings of national monarchies in Europe put a definite end to the conception of an unified political structure for Europe.

The conception of a socially and politically unified India as a practical possibility and the whole current of political thought that arises from that conception are modern in the extreme and directly attributable to the British connection. We

already see, I state it merely as a fact and without any controversial implications, a conscious intellectual movement to sever that connection. Supposing it were severed? Is the tendency for unification so historically strong or so essential for the further evolution of the Indian peoples that it must survive, or is its necessity so demonstrable to reason and is the power of reason so strong as to ensure the easy predominance of such a tendency?

These are reflections suggested by recorded history but if tendencies arising from recorded history so strongly influence the minds of successive generations may it not follow that the influences of unrecorded history are still extant and in the strictest sense of the word incalculable?

It is only on the assumption that all men are capable of evolving into completely rational beings and that the influence of reason will eventually overcome environment that we can conceive of the emergence and survival of one type of social organism. That assumption may be a conviction but it is no more: but if so be that there is an evolution in the social organism and if one conception of power may help us to understand and control that evolution, there is a need to seek out that conception not merely abstractly or *a priori* but also by the patient study of phenomena.

To those who believe in the possibility of evolution history rolls on like a mighty river ever seeking its way to the sea: it is not a canal cut straight to a clear destination nor does its path lie down a broad valley leading direct to the ocean. It may run over rapids or split into deltas: a stratum of rock or a new impetus, beginning perhaps with a small and insignificant cut, may turn back

or divert its course for centuries: parts of it may dry up leaving on its dead banks the ruins of once famous cities. —

Man engrossed in contemporary events, stands on its bank, and seeing only the rush and swirl of the eddies or the desolate surface of some disconnected swamp asks himself whether what he surveys is river at all: perhaps it is only an interminable whirlpool or a stagnant marsh, its surface broken now and then by bubbles only to relapse again into quiescence.

Some are content to watch its flow only hoping that it will not break its banks and engulf them in ruin. Others proclaim that they have found the main current, dig a channel here or build an obstruction there to guide or control it, not knowing and perhaps not caring whether they are leading the precious stream against an impenetrable ridge or diverting it into a futile backwater.

The student of recorded history standing on a little eminence traces back its course till soon it disappears into the mists of time—he sees how it has come and speculates how it might have gone had this obstruction been removed or that channel cleared, but he cannot divine what natural obstacles or what caprice of man may guide its course in the future.

To see its course as a whole, to comprehend the forces that drive it on, to envisage the country that it yet has to traverse, to find the main channel and to help it on its journey towards the sea—therein lies a task worthy, I think, of the highest intellects and the deepest learning.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Annual
Convocation of the Calcutta University
on 17th February 1937.***

It is not my intention to speak at length or to stand between you and the distinguished visitor who this year is delivering the Convocation address.

There are however a few words I should like to say on this last occasion when I shall address you in Convocation as Chancellor of the University. First let me express my congratulations to those who now have received degrees and awards, and my best wishes to the University as a whole for its continued progress and prosperity.

During the years that I have held this high office—for the Chancellorship of a University is a high office—it has not been open to me to develop that degree of intimate and personal relationship with its academic activities, and with those who direct such activities in detail, that more leisured times might have made possible. I have however through the medium of the Vice-Chancellor endeavoured to keep in touch with developments of importance in the policy of the University, both academic and fiscal, and I have followed with special interest those measures which seemed to me calculated to have the greatest effect on the lives and character of its alumni. Though the office of Chancellor goes automatically to the Governor of Bengal I may fairly say that I have never regarded the Chancellorship as a mere appendage to the Governorship of Bengal—but on the other hand,

enjoying as Chancellor the advantage of exceptionally easy access to the Governor, I have always been in a position to lay before the latter as the head of the administration what I have conceived to be the legitimate views of the University.

Looking forward across the very brief span that now separates us from responsible government in Bengal when the Governor himself will normally be relieved of any responsibility for the policy of the State as regards the University, I cannot but think he may still have opportunities for service in the discharge of the office of Chancellor.

I have no desire now to dilate upon this theme or indeed to encroach at all upon matters that may fall within the sphere of party politics—but aware as I constantly am of the profound—I may justly say revolutionary—changes that are upon us in the principles of government in this province I cannot help asking myself in what direction this University can make the greatest contribution to the national life of Bengal; I am tempted to answer as follows—by striving to raise the general level of quality among those who come under its influence and by inculcating a true conception of constructive leadership. I have used the word quality deliberately because in these days quality is not a characteristic always associated with mass production. To combine the two demands the continuous application of high standards—both in the selection of raw material and in the rejection or remodelling at every stage of components that fail to come up to specification.

I make bold to state as a historical truth that the advancement of a people by their own efforts depends in the main upon two things—first the average standard of quality attained by the people themselves and secondly their inherent capacity to throw up from time to time as circumstances may require leaders of the requisite calibre.

For more than a century and a half it has been a constant feature in the life of this province that its development has been conditioned by reaction to outside influences. Extraneous influences have sometimes inspired, sometimes restrained, sometimes provoked: and in turn leaders among the people of Bengal have appeared sometimes as enthusiastic propagators, interpreters or adapters of western ideas, sometimes as ardent reformers chafing at the slow progress of change, and at other times as rebels against the whole conception of external authority in any form: but always or nearly always reaction to or against external influence has been the stimulus and the focus of interest. In all that concerns most closely the daily lives of the people of Bengal that stimulus is going to be withdrawn—that focus of interest is going to disappear. No doubt there will be a tendency to keep the stimulus alive, to search and scrutinize the activities of future governments for some trace of the hidden hand of external authority; but such tendencies will not bring any nearer to solution the problems of health, education and economic well-being for which a remedy will be demanded by the people from governments responsible to themselves. The things that matter are no longer to be had from a third party as a boon to be sought or a concession

to be wrested: they are to be devised and constructed by those among the people who aspire to leadership. The days of leadership against something are passing and the call will be for leadership to something. I venture to say that if the Universities cannot produce men to answer that call they will fail to fulfil their function in the national life.

It is the function of a leader as I understand it to try and bring out the best among his people and not to hesitate to correct their weaknesses—for every nation and every community has its weaknesses: if instead leaders of the people try to follow the easier course—to appeal to weaknesses or to encourage tendencies that they know to be adverse to sound development then the result will be not progress but decline and disaster.

I have put these thoughts forward because it has been long in my mind to do so and I can think of no better place to speak them out frankly than in the precincts of this University.

To elaborate them would render me suspect of attempting to deliver a convocation address of my own, and I assure you that having myself suggested the delivery of that address by a distinguished visitor I have no intention of usurping his place.

Let me now stand aside and leave you to hear one who in the world of letters long ago discarded the easy path and in face of criticism and opposition sought out and developed the latent strength and beauty of the Bengali language. I have been told on good authority that some thirty years ago when the suggestion, ultimately given effect to at the

instance of Sir Asutosh Mukherji in 1913, was first mooted, that the degree of Doctor of Literature should be conferred on Rabindra Nath, objections were raised on the ground that he was not a Bengali Scholar. But his creative leadership in the world of letters has won its own recognition and to-day we are to listen for the first time to a Convocation address in Bengali by one who has earned the right to rank as a leader among the creators of the modern language of Bengal.

His Exoellenoy's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Calcutta Committee of the Kalimpong Homes on 19th February 1937.

I value the opportunity again to preside at the annual meeting of the Calcutta Committee of the Homes, and to hear at first hand the record of the progress of the Homes for another year.

I would like to refer to two friends whom the Homes have lost during the year. Sir Charles Macleod who had been associated with the Homes for well over a quarter of a century, and for the last twenty years had been the Chairman of the London Committee, died last October. He was a personal friend of mine and I realize what his loss means to the Homes. The recent and sudden death of Sir Vivian McCaw came as a shock to all his friends, and especially to the Homes to which he was a generous donor and to the Calcutta Committee on which he rendered valuable service. We are poorer by the loss of these two helpers who had watched over the interests of the Homes for many years and had been amongst their warmest supporters both in prosperity and in adversity.

Institutions which depend on private charities and subscriptions for an essential part of their income are apt to pass through anxious and difficult times, and in the last few years we have seen many which have had drastically to curtail their activities or even to close down altogether through the onset of the financial depression; though in

fact this was the time when such institutions were most needed. The St. Andrews Homes at Kalimpong have had their ups and down like the others, but throughout everything there has always been at these meetings a note of cheerful optimism and always a report of some definite mark of progress during the preceding year. It is this spirit of progress, and the determination to keep abreast with the needs of the times that will remain fixed in my memory as the distinguishing marks of these meetings during the five years I have attended them.

It was the Chancellor of the Exchequer who described his budgets of the depression years as a tale of "Bleak House" but likened the budget in which he first reduced the burden of taxation to a tale of "Great Expectations". I think if one were to search through the titles of Dickens novels, the one least applicable to the Kalimpong Homes would be "Bleak House", though perhaps "Nicholas Nickleby" might be bracketed with it as equally inappropriate. Nevertheless the Homes during the last few years have had to face many disappointments and of these the closing of Mansfield cottage was one of the greatest. Last year I was able to comment on the great response that had been made by old boys and girls, and—I might have added—past and present workers, to the appeal for the reopening of this cottage, and this year, as we have heard already to-night from Dr. Graham, we are able to rejoice in the actual reopening itself, and the knowledge that the cottage's upkeep is assured for a minimum of three years. As regards Mansfield we have passed through a period of "Great Expectations" to a time of great fulfilment.

But though the response to the special appeal for the reopening of Mansfield has been so encouraging, it has been necessary for the Board of Management to keep an anxious eye on the general subscription list which has not shown very definite signs of recovery from the depression. That is where this committee comes in. For, if I may pursue the jest one step further before abandoning it for good, the tale of the Homes is more than a "Tale of Two Cities"—it is a "Tale of Three Cities", Calcutta, London and Edinburgh. It is upon a band of voluntary workers in each of these three cities that the stability and prosperity of the juvenile colony of Kalimpong depend; the success or failure of their efforts spells ultimately good or bad times for the Homes. In the past I have stressed the need for renewed efforts here in Calcutta for the extension and expansion of the subscription list. And indeed I know the zeal with which your various sub-committees pursue the objects for which they are responsible. As an instance of their zeal I may recall the case of a member of my staff who gave instructions, rather indistinctly it would seem, for his staff coat to be taken to Messrs. Ranken's for repairs; it was at once taken to Messrs. Duncan's which, as every bearer knows, is the correct place for old clothes to be taken to. I hasten to add that there was no trouble in getting the coat back: but its owner went through an anxious time before definitely discovering that his finery had not already been converted by mistake into clothing for the Homes.

But now that the depression has so far lifted we should set our faces against any further

shrinkage in the subscription list. I look forward to the time when it will be possible for Dr. Graham to announce that the level of the peak years about 1921 has been reached and surpassed.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, this is the last time that I shall see you here in Calcutta at this meeting; but whether I go back to London or to my own city of Edinburgh I shall not be by any means out of reach of the Homes. In whatever part of the world one may be it is not possible to avoid for long the attentions of Dr. Graham, that grand old enthusiast of Kalimpong; he has just told us that he is shortly to be off to the antipodes to spread the name and fame of Kalimpong in that quarter, and to open up wider opportunities for the boys and girls of the Homes in the uttermost ends of the earth. I wish him and the Homes all success in the future, and take this opportunity to assure him of my unfailing support in whatever quarter of the world it may be my lot to be.

***His Excellency's Speech on the occasion of
the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the
Anderson Bridge over the Damodar at
Burdwan on 25th February 1937.***

It is not my intention to add to or elaborate in detail the full and able exposition which we have heard from the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prosad Singh Roy concerning the nature and purposes of this bridge to be. Considered by itself it is a great undertaking—the longest purely road bridge in the province, conceived on modern lines and designed to open up communication with the Grand Trunk Road for a large and hitherto inaccessible part of Bengal. In assessing its ultimate value, however, we must look further even than that, and if the progress to which we look forward is maintained, some of those who are now here may live to see a sign post on the Grand Trunk Road pointing one way to Peshawar and, in the direction of this bridge, to Madras and Bombay. I make no definite prophecies because I know full well how long the best laid plans may take to come to fulfilment. I am reminded of a long chain of predecessors in office, more than one of whom had hoped to drive over the new Howrah Bridge before his term of office came to an end; yet this bridge, like the Howrah Bridge, is now definitely under way. It has been designed, the site has been settled and the money is there to pay for it: what remains is for the engineers to undertake their task—a task which will not be without its problems but in which we feel confident that their skill and determination will bring them to success.

We know that progress is slow but we may be permitted to hope that in the matter of road development we have now reached a stage when progress may be steady and sure. Less than ten years ago, I am told, an adventurous and enthusiastic motorist undertook the journey from Calcutta to Burdwan in a Rolls Royce car and completed it there and back in a day. In the then state of the road this feat was reported as a striking testimony to the car and as a feat which nothing short of a Rolls Royce could have accomplished without very serious discomfort. The report stated, if my informant's memory is correct, that it was simply incredible that the wheels of a motor car could perform such acrobatics while the body kept on an even keel. Those of you who have done the journey now-a-days, without a Rolls Royce and without being visibly the worse for it, can bear witness to the fact that there has been some progress already; but in the matter of road communications as a whole, looked at from the point of view both of the province and India, we are only at the beginning, and what I would like to emphasize is that the building of this bridge is not an isolated project, but one of the first fruits of long study leading up to a carefully planned and comprehensive scheme embodying the main lines of road development for the province.

You have heard from the Hon'ble Minister that the expenditure upon this bridge—heavy though it is—will not starve the rest of Bengal of capital projects, as we are authorised to raise a loan for the funds required. The loan will be secured of course on our provincial revenues but will be paid off, while the Road Fund lasts, by appropriations of a

portion of our share in that Fund. I am now in a position to add and this is of special interest in view of the proceedings of the Indian Road and Transport Development Association, Ltd. reported in this morning's papers that in addition to this loan we are (subject to the consent of the Central Standing Committee) authorised to raise loans to the extent of a further 47 lakhs for the financing of approved capital projects of road development in other parts of the province. We may therefore claim—I speak still as the Head of the existing administration—that we have placed our successors in a position to make a good start and they will find plans based on the most careful investigations awaiting their decision.

In the matter of road policy we have proceeded, as I believe we were entitled to proceed, on the assumption that, while the rate of progress must be determined by the funds that are in hand or can be judiciously raised, the work of road development is one which requires continuity; we have further assumed that provided the general scheme is well conceived it will in the public interest be allowed to stand irrespective of the political vicissitudes of this or that government. The future will show whether our assumptions are warranted but it will not in my opinion affect the validity of those assumptions from the standpoint of the public interest.

While I am speaking of continuity may I say that in the instance of this bridge we are implementing a policy of our predecessors five centuries ago, though with a different intention. It was, according to tradition, the Subadars of Bengal who

had their seat of government at Pandua or Gour in the fifteenth century, who first constructed the Balshahi road from Midnapore through Burdwan to Rajmahal. The road, we are told, was an embanked one, seventy-five yards in width, planted with trees and aligned in perfectly straight sections from one natural feature of the countryside to another. At every eight miles there was a mosque, with lands assigned to it for its upkeep, and I am told that the remains of these mosques are still standing and of much interest even to this day.

We cannot, with our resources, aim at a road of such width and grandeur but what we can do and what we are now about to begin is to build a bridge on the line approximately of that old road which the builders of the road could never have contemplated.

The motor car after the long lapse of centuries has brought back at once the utility and the romance of these old communications, and in this ceremony to-day we are inaugurating a link in one of those old routes along which the commerce and the pageantry of bygone ages used to move. I join with you all in the hope that this link may be of real service in removing the handicap so long felt by the population south of the Damodar, owing to the lack of those easier and more rapid means of communication that the march of progress has bestowed on their more fortunate brethren to the north.

I have already said, and Sir Bijoy has explained to you in detail, that this bridge is designed to form a link in the future with Trunk roads stretching away to Madras in the south and to Bombay in

the west ; yet it is not only of Bombay and Madras that we are thinking to-day as we set our hands to the building of this bridge. We are thinking, in the more immediate future, of our own fertile tracts to the south so long cut off from the main lines of communication. The cultivator in those parts ploughs the soil and bends his back to the task of transplanting and reaping his crop with no less labour than his brethren in more accessible places, but between him and the markets of the province lies a stretch of difficult country and even in the dry season a painful trek over the sands of the Damodar. This bridge will lighten his burden and help him to share with his more fortunate brethren the full fruits of his labour. Moreover, we know the distress that has overtaken the people south of this river at those times of flood to which it is so often liable : we can imagine the sense of frustration of those who, situated on the north bank and within easy access of the resources of Calcutta and the province, find themselves cut off by an impassable river from suffering humanity in the south. To them and still more to those who are exposed to the privations of the southern side this bridge will bring a message of hope.

I cannot conclude what I have to say without paying tribute to the enthusiasm and persistence of Sir Bijoy Prosad Singh Roy in pressing on schemes for the development of communications entrusted so long to his charge, and to the skill and arduous labours of the Special Officer, Mr. King, and the Bridge Designer, Mr. Chambers, without whom the preparation of a comprehensive scheme and the design of this particular bridge could not

have been accomplished. A task no less arduous lies ahead for the engineers who are to translate the plans of Government and the Designer into solid and enduring concrete. I appreciate fully the responsibilities that they will have to face and the anxieties that they will pass through before they bring their work to a conclusion ; but I am confident that their skill and devotion to duty will carry them through and though I shall not be here in Bengal for long to watch the progress of the work my sincere good wishes will follow their endeavours. For myself I can only say that I am proud to have my name associated with so great and so beneficent a project and happy to have rendered such service as I could in helping to bring it to realisation.

I now have much pleasure in laying the foundation stone of the Anderson Bridge over the Damodar river.

His Excellency's Speech at the Combined Bengal and Calcutta Annual Meeting of the Health Welfare Committees, the Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Association on 9th March 1937.

SIR WALTER CRADDOCK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome here this representative gathering of volunteers in the campaign for health.

As you know, the immediate reason for combining on this one occasion the meetings of the four committees here present, is the pressure on my own time. During this month that precedes the inauguration of the new constitution I felt that it was impossible to pledge myself to attend and address two separate meetings and I thank you for your ready co-operation in effecting this change of procedure: to many of you the change has meant devoting two evenings instead of one to the business of your respective annual meetings, which have been adjourned till this evening for completion.

I feel however that the combination of these meetings, though forced upon us by circumstances, may nevertheless serve a useful purpose. All here to-night are concerned with one or more aspects of a common problem—the problem of health and uplift. Some of you are already members of more than one of the committees here represented; but the members of each committee may well be interested and find solid gain in being brought formally

into contact with the others, in hearing the account that their fellow workers have to give of a year's service and considering how far they can assist one another in the pursuit of their common objective.

I ventured when addressing you last year to suggest the possibility of greater co-ordination of effort; attempting to survey the plan of campaign as a whole, I pointed out that the reopening of the Training School for Health Welfare Workers was the first essential step towards achieving substantial results.

It is most gratifying to learn that these suggestions have been actively taken up, and I would like to express my thanks to Sir Walter Craddock, to the managing body of the Red Cross, and to the members of the other committees whose initiative and co-operation have brought about such early results. Under the auspices of the Provincial Branch of the Red Cross a Health Welfare Committee has been organised which will assist and co-ordinate the activities of the Health Week propaganda in Bengal, the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics in Calcutta and the Districts, and the Training School. At the request of Sir Edward Benthall a further branch of welfare work, though financially independent, has been formally included in this scheme of co-ordination—namely the Industrial Welfare Centres. I gather that other organisations concerned with social service have expressed their interest in the scheme and that the Calcutta Health Week, while preserving its own individuality may find it possible to join in the general plan of organisation.

This development represents, I believe, much more than a change of organisation on paper. It means that the committees working in each part of the field, while in no way losing their own initiative, will be kept in regular touch with one another through the medium of a broad-based organisation, enjoying the advantage of a permanent staff and possessing wide personal contacts both in Calcutta and in the mofussil. It will be the object of this committee to focus on a common objective the efforts of the propagandists, and of the practical workers in the clinics: to see that propaganda is systematically followed up until clinics are established and in the meantime to ensure that an adequate staff for the clinics is trained and available. Moreover, as this organisation develops, those who strive in remote parts of Bengal to awaken the conscience of the people and to stimulate the efforts of local bodies may be encouraged by the feeling that they are in direct relations with fellow workers in Calcutta prepared to use whatever influence they may have to ensure that progress will be planned and continuous.

This determination to co-ordinate activities has already yielded one result of outstanding importance. Very shortly after I had occasion to draw attention to the matter at the last annual meeting of the Red Cross, Mr. Laksman Prosad Poddar came forward and offered a sum of Rs. 15,000 together with land worth Rs. 10,000 towards reopening the Training School on a proper basis; the Rs. 15,000 is in my custody to be handed over for the purpose as soon as it is needed. No general appeal has yet been made for funds but I believe the amount required

for capital purposes will be forthcoming. Some time ago it was mentioned to Mr. G. D. Birla that this was an object for which an appeal might be issued in due course. He was not asked for a donation but the next day sent a cheque for Rs. 5,000. His Exalted Highness the Nizam, one of whose entertainments in Calcutta had clashed with a function that the Red Cross had proposed to hold in aid of this purpose, made a gift of Rs. 2,000 as a token of his good will.

For the recurring expenses my Government have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 5,000 a year for the first two years: as a result of this various other moneys which were withdrawn owing to the absence of a Government contribution will once again be available: though a Government cannot as a rule bind its successors I venture to think that the value and importance of this object is one upon which no political party will disagree. This Government grant together with the renewed subvention from the Lady Chelmsford League and the funds that the Red Cross will itself provide or beg, will ensure the current finance of the School.

Finally we have heard from Sir Walter Craddock this evening that the Red Cross is now going ahead with the selection and acquisition of a site and intends to have the Training School built and functioning before the next annual meeting comes round. This is great news and I congratulate all concerned on so substantial an achievement.

There is every reason to believe that the yearly supply of eight trained workers will, if they reach the required standard of qualifications, be fully

and promptly absorbed into employment. I am told that the Industrial Welfare Centres are anxious to have them, and in some districts in the mofussil it is only the lack of trained workers that is holding up the establishment of much needed clinics.

One has only to look at the remarkable expansion of activities in Barisal to realise what a wide field there is for this work; while from Ajiapara a remote place in the district of Tippera comes the news of a newly formed branch of the society.

The annual report contains accounts of work done by various agencies; by missions such as the Oxford Sisters in Barisal or the mission at Orakandi; by other organisations such as the National Indian Association at Bhowanipore or special committees as in North Calcutta, Kidderpore and Entally; by local committees with the help of local bodies as at Chapra and Rajshahi; or by a Municipality, as at Darjeeling; whether or not the work is done under the name of the Red Cross, it is the aim of the Red Cross to further it in any way that it can by encouragement, publicity, and such financial support as its funds will permit.

Closely allied to the task of establishing clinics is the propaganda work of the Health Week Committees, for it is upon propaganda that we must rely to create the demand for service.

We miss to-night the Presidents of the two Health Weeks, Lady Woodhead and Lady Reid; but I am sure you will all join with me in an expression of our thanks and good wishes. Lady Reid who has done so much for good causes in Bengal will, I am sure, be soon as deeply engrossed

in Assam. Lady Woodhead, who so soon leaves us for home, takes with her our gratitude for the work she has done for the Bengal Health Week and our warmest good wishes for her happiness.

There is no diminution of the energy which is put into the organisation of the Calcutta Health Week and I am gratified to learn that the attendance has been increased this year ; so much so that as we have just heard it was at times necessary to close the gates. One danger of organising an exhibition on health matters is that, unless there is very careful selection of the exhibits and the manner in which the various subjects are presented, the exhibit may terrify the spectator or appeal to morbid curiosity rather than stimulate the desire to live in healthy circumstances and surroundings and show in simple and convincing fashion how that desire can be fulfilled. I am assured that the Calcutta Health Week Exhibition does not suffer from this defect ; as one observer said "It was a real exhibition of Health and not of disease". I had to decline with regret an invitation to broadcast in aid of the exhibition but am glad to hear that its publicity was so successful and would like to thank and congratulate all who took part in the enterprise as a whole.

The Calcutta Health Week Exhibition has one advantage in that the persons whom it wishes to reach live in their millions within a few miles of each other. But this is not the case with the Bengal Health Week. It is its business to organise separate Health Weeks in as many of the centres of population in the mofussil as possible, and we have

just heard of the success that has attended the efforts made this year. It would be impossible for me to mention individually those who have contributed to this success in far-off places and in face of difficulties; but let me assure them that they are not out of my mind. In the case of the mofussil exhibitions still more than in the case of the Calcutta one, it is of great importance that the good effects should not be lost. It is necessary, and I have laid stress on this before, to follow up these campaigns and to keep interest and knowledge alive by constant personal contacts between Headquarters and the mofussil. It is with this object in view that there will be included in the Health Welfare Committee of the Red Cross, members who are resident outside Calcutta.

I have already, on the occasion of the St. John Ambulance Competition in January referred to the work of the Association and the results that have been obtained in the effort to reawaken interest in the teaching aspect of its work in the mofussil. We had also at that time the benefit of a visit from Colonel Sleeman, the Chief Commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas whose presence was a source of particular encouragement to those interested in the work of the Brigade.

The Association and the Brigade both have their part to play in the general plan. While the Brigade organises and keeps ready for action in emergency a trained and disciplined voluntary personnel, the Association has a constant task not only in big towns and populous centres but equally in the rural areas—the task of spreading accurate .

and practical knowledge and enlightenment, and of mobilising the energies and teaching skill of the professional doctor to aid the efforts of the lay worker in the campaign for better living. It is fitting that the Association this evening should find an honoured place in this joint gathering—to which each band of pilgrims has come to lay its own special offering on the altar of service to humanity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall not be here next year to see the results of another twelve months of your work, but I shall leave you happy in the knowledge that the campaign will go on; the army of which you each form a part is on the march with a clear objective, a unity of direction, and a resolve on the part of each unit to do its best on its own front to help forward the advance as a whole. You carry with you my gratitude for what you have achieved and my sincerest good wishes for your work in the future.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Opening
of the "Sir John Anderson Casualty
Block", Calcutta Medical College, on
20th March 1937.***

SIR BIJOY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am very pleased indeed to be present here to-day to open the Sir John Anderson Casualty Block the foundation stone of which I laid a little over two years ago. The external view of the building that has now risen on that foundation is impressive and gives rise to high expectations of what we shall find within. I feel sure that when in a few minutes time we come to penetrate into the various wards themselves and see the work from the inside we shall not be disappointed.

The psychological effect of the outward appearance of a hospital must be of great importance to the doctor in his task. Which of us does not face the dentist with renewed confidence when he has found a waiting room clean and tidy, devoid of apprehensive visitors and provided with illustrated papers of even moderate modernity? That cheerful aspect of a temple of healing is a great reinforcement to the skill and devotion of its high priests.

Hitherto this hospital has not been able to boast of the outward appearance of its casualty accommodation nor I believe of its inward appearance either. I have no doubt that the work it did was of the highest standard, but much of that work was done under conditions depressing to doctors and patients alike.

Moreover the importance of proper surroundings and adequate facilities cannot be over-emphasised from the point of view of a teaching institution. The student who labours under difficulties of seeing, hearing and recording his observations starts with a heavy handicap: also it is upon those who qualify from our teaching hospitals that we must rely in the future to set the standard of equipment, efficiency and supervision elsewhere. It is of the greatest importance to the province that the teaching hospitals should set an example in these respects to those who study there at an impressionable age.

In all these respects the old casualty accommodation was seriously defective. But now, by means of the generous response to your centenary appeal you have been able to effect a great change. Nobody I think would go so far as to want to be a casualty merely for the sake of sampling the accommodation which has now been provided. But those unfortunate people who are brought here in sudden and urgent need of help will find bright and pleasant surroundings in which to be treated and to recuperate, and students working in this block will carry away with them a lasting impression of what a modern hospital should be.

The appeal which was issued in 1934 has been thus far successful and I trust that in due course the other objects of the appeal may be realised. The appeal as originally made covered a wide range of objects; but realizing the importance of a strictly practical programme those responsible concentrated on three main purposes—the establishment of the casualty buildings, the provision of radium—that essential element in the modern treatment of

cancer—and the centralisation and fusion of outpatients departments. Of these purposes two have been fulfilled and the last one yet remains. The appeal specified the sum of rupees five lakhs, and up to date the collections amount, I am told, to about rupees three and half lakhs which, though falling short of expectations, furnishes proof of the large-hearted generosity of the public of Bengal. I need specify no names for in a few minutes we shall be able to inspect in the hall of this building the tablets on which the names of the principal donors are inscribed.

It was hoped that the Committee would be able to collect enough money to complete the west wing and to effect the complete centralisation of the outpatients departments. If expectations as regards the outpatients departments and the west wing have not been realised, it is at any rate very satisfactory to know that the purchase of radium has been made possible in the meantime by the Silver Jubilee Fund. I understand that arrangements are now being made to obtain the supply of radium by means of the forty thousand rupees contributed by the Fund, and that the Hospital will soon be in a position to administer modern radium therapy in malignant diseases.

As regards the remaining objects one can only hope that other persons of means and goodwill impressed by the excellent use that has been made of the amount so far raised will come forward with the remaining sixty or seventy thousand rupees and enable the whole programme of the centenary appeal to be carried through.

Before opening the block I must endorse the words of Sir Bijoy and express our admiration of the manner in which those concerned in the launching of the appeal and the building of this casualty block have performed their work. The success they have already achieved is an encouragement to further efforts and they have the abiding satisfaction of knowing that they have made a permanent contribution to the advancement of this hospital and the relief of suffering.

I shall now have much pleasure in proceeding to open the Sir John Anderson Casualty Block.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual General Meeting of the Tuberculosis Association of Bengal on 23rd March 1937.

DR. ROY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

When some time ago I considered the arrangement of my time in the month of March, I was extremely doubtful whether it would be possible for me to attend all the meetings that in the past have taken place in that month; and in agreeing to this present engagement I may frankly say I did so with misgivings. I am very glad that I have been able to keep it, not only because it is the last time I shall be able to attend your annual meeting but also because I feel it would have been a great pity if so able and interesting a document as your Annual Report had been denied whatever measure of publicity I can assist in giving it.

I do not know what your practice is regarding the circulation of this report, but I hope you will put it into the hands of the local officers of Government who are responsible for, or interested in, the supervision or development of hospitals, and as many local authorities as possible; I commend the reading of it to anyone who feels that he is in a position, whether by influence or by administrative action, to make some practical contribution to the objects that you have at heart.

There are many signs that at least among the more educated classes the public conscience is beginning to awake on the subject of tuberculosis, and I have little doubt that the services of this

Association during the last eight years have done a great deal towards bringing about this result.

* * The Association by itself could not, even if it tried, deal with the problem of tuberculosis in Bengal. That, as your report makes clear, is a responsibility that must rest on many shoulders; but your function, as you recognise, is to bring home to others the realisation of that responsibility and to show by technical advice and practical demonstration how that responsibility can be effectively discharged.

The report you have presented gives a concise and convincing account of the steps that you have been able to take this year towards those ends. The dispensaries in existence a year ago consisted of five in Calcutta, one in Howrah and one in Dacca. Since then a dispensary has been opened at Kalimpong with your co-operation, and Darjeeling, where I understand an extension of the facilities for in-patients is very shortly to take place, has called in your expert assistance. Other districts, where X-ray facilities exist to facilitate diagnosis, have been approached and I hope that from some at any rate your advances will meet with an early response.

Meantime those departments of hospitals that are already working in co-operation with you have furnished some extremely interesting figures, and your Medical Committee for its part has made practical and valuable suggestions. I leave those who read these figures, to draw their own conclusions in detail but some inferences leap to the eye.

Out of 10,600 odd new patients examined at the co-operating clinics about 30 per cent. were tubercular and mostly in the prime of life. Of these 735, or rather less than one in five, were referred to hospitals for admission but 290 only could be admitted. On the other hand the cases treated by special methods in expert hands shewed markedly good results if caught in the early stages.

These figures of course are only a very small sample but their message is clear enough. It calls for wider spreading of knowledge, earlier diagnosis and immensely greater facilities for expert treatment at local centres. It is not merely a question of one sanatorium here or there. An institution of that kind is an obvious and imperative necessity, if only for the purpose of providing facilities both for research and for training of doctors and workers, without which an adequate dissemination of expert knowledge is impossible; but from the point of view of treatment of the disease in the province as a whole, a single sanatorium can deal with only an infinitesimal portion of the affected population, and in deciding to continue and intensify your propaganda and demonstration work with a view to stimulating the activities of the State and local authorities, you are, I am sure, working on the right line of advance.

Propaganda, however, unsupported by practical demonstration will not convince in the long run. It was a Malaria Commission of the League of Nations that, after a study tour in India in 1929, emphasised the importance to public health work of what I may describe as the element of the miraculous. "The population", they said, "is at present not sufficiently

educated to appreciate prevention of disease but is still in the 'dramatic' stage which likes to see 'cures.' Mankind in the mass likes to believe in miraculous cures and quacks thrive for this reason. We are a long way from the stage when science can do miracles with tuberculosis, yet if we want people to believe in, and act on, our propaganda for prevention, we must be in a position to show that we know enough about it to be able to produce impressive results by way of treatment. And this brings me to the question of your central clinic.

The Finance Committee set up two years ago has gone on steadily with its work, not losing heart in spite of the impossibility of launching a spectacular and effective appeal on a large scale. During the course of the last year a further sum of Rs. 4,255 has been raised quietly and unobtrusively from among a small circle and the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Tagore and Dr. Law, have offered, if necessary, to make up a deficit of Rs. 7,000 in order that the central portion of the X'ray clinic in Calcutta may be started without delay. I had occasion a few months ago to make some enquiries regarding the fate of an application made by the Association to my Government for a grant of land; I understand that the matter is still not concluded and that alternative possibilities are being thought of. I can only say that when the opportune time arises for the Association to appeal for help on a large scale, it will be able to reinforce its appeal with the plea that so long it has steadily done all that it could to help itself and has not been content to sit with

folded hands and merely wait for help from some one else.

The problem of tuberculosis has wide ramifications and involves attention to many allied problems. Among them is the very big problem of nutrition, not only with regard to quantity but also as regards quality. There is, I think, a lot that can be done towards making diets more nutritive and more health-giving without necessarily being very much more expensive, and this is a remark that applies particularly to students and others who have to feed themselves on very limited funds and with very limited knowledge of what is really nutritious as well as palatable. I have been interested to hear that you have been making experiments in distributing nourishment to a limited number of patients of the Anglo-Indian and the European community through the help of the District Charitable Society and the Red Cross, and I feel sure that the supervision and observation which your staff of health visitors are able to contribute will greatly enhance the value of the aid provided by those bodies. Similarly I have no doubt that co-operation between your visiting and research staff and any public organisations that can be induced to take up the problem of nutrition and propaganda regarding diet will greatly enhance the value and results of propaganda and experiment.

Her Excellency the Marchioness of Linlithgow during her recent visit drew attention to yet another aspect of the problem namely that of aftercare of patients—a subject in which Her Excellency herself is closely interested in England. It is early yet to see what definite plans may materialise

in this regard, but it may be of interest to observe that Government itself has recently acquired new experience as regards settlements of a village type as a result of the establishment of the agricultural training farm at Maslandapur. I would say that one lesson there learnt is that such settlements may well be both healthy, and congenial to people of the middle class provided that they provide occupations worth while doing, congenial company, and a degree of intellectual interest.

I am afraid I have ranged over a wide field in the course of what I have said this evening, but that is only because the work that you have undertaken and its implications are themselves so wide.

I cannot conclude however without wishing to your Chairman, Dr. Roy, a pleasant journey to the Empire Conference on Tuberculosis this year and thanking him and all the office bearers of the Association for the year's progress. In particular I hear that this is the last occasion on which the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Remfry, will be present at an Annual Meeting and I am sure you would like me to take this opportunity of expressing to her our gratitude for all that she has done for the Association. There are many others I know who might well be mentioned, but in thanking them all I feel confident that the enthusiasm, practical ability and expert knowledge that your Association commands will assure for it a career of distinction and ever expanding utility in the future.

***His Exoellenoy's Speech at the Laying 'oʃ
the Foundation Stone of the Dufferin
Hospital on 25th March 1937.***

It is now about fifty years ago that the Countess of Dufferin, after whom this institution is named, expressed the hope that the good work then started might prosper and that the Hospital might become the centre of medical relief to the women of Bengal. She added the further hope that much might be done here in the way of training nurses so that it might be a means of promoting all the objects of the National Association for supplying medical aid to women. To-day as we set our hands to this new building we realise how great was the need for the inauguration of the Dufferin Fund and how truly it has served the objects with which it was established. We are reminded however that though the aims of a fund of this kind endure for ever, the building and the material implements through which it works are transitory and frequently in need of extension or even complete reconstruction. So rapid is the advance of hospital technique and practice and so heavy the expanding demands upon hospital accommodation that those who are responsible are periodically faced, sometimes at brief intervals, with the necessity of raising from public charity large sums of money. The Dufferin Fund has already to its credit the building of two hospitals and this is the third in the short space of fifty years. Fortunately, thanks to the foresight of past committees, who have left enough space here for the

purpose, it will be possible to complete the erection and occupation of the new building before demolishing the old.

. In the design of the building the skill of the architects has been reinforced by the practical experience of those whose business it will be to carry on the day to day management of the hospital. Our new hospital is to be a building of four storeys with 200 beds. There will be an enlarged out-patients department. There will be medical, surgical and gynæcological wards, and the two maternity wards, for clean and septic cases respectively, will be placed on different floors so that the two classes of patients may be kept absolutely apart.

The single small operating theatre of the present building will be replaced by two blocks of operating theatres, in which again the clean and septic cases will be kept apart. Many rooms will be provided at low cost for paying patients; such accommodation, which gives the patient privacy and enables her to have a relative with her, is always much appreciated. Larger and more expensive suites for families are also being provided. It has fortunately been found possible to include a small children's ward. In the present hospital a piece of the verandah walled in, small and cramped, is the only pathological laboratory. This essential feature of a modern hospital is included in the new building and is granted ample accommodation. The duty rooms for nurses, ward kitchens, store rooms, sanitary annexes have been planned for easy working. The nurses will be able to do all the work unaided, and under good and easy conditions.

The enterprise which we begin to-day is another of the important results of the success attained in Bengal by the organisers of the Silver Jubilee Fund together with the handsome co-operation of the District Boards in the province. From the provincial Silver Jubilee Fund a sum of Rs. 2,20,000 was allotted to the Dufferin Building Fund and a further lakh was received from the Central Fund at Delhi. About a year ago in response to certain representations I received a characteristic telegram from Her Excellency Lady Willingdon sending me personal greetings and the welcome intimation that a further Rs. 75,000 had been passed for the Dufferin Fund. I am glad to take this opportunity to-day of acknowledging Lady Willingdon's personal interest in this project, and expressing on behalf of you all our gratitude for the help that we have received. I am confident that the donors of the Silver Jubilee Fund will feel that their gifts are being applied to a noble and worthy purpose and that when the building comes to completion, they will find in it yet another fitting memorial to the Jubilee of our late King-Emperor George V of blessed memory—its value enhanced by the co-operation of District Boards throughout the province in the cause of the relief of pain and suffering.

For the completion of the work at present taken in hand the funds actually available are still Rs. 45,000 short. Towards this we have received up to to-day over Rs. 17,000. I acknowledge with gratitude the generosity of the donors. I would particularly mention Mr. Nemai Chand Dey who has given Rs. 10,000 and a secured annuity of Rs. 2,400. Among the other donors I should

mention the Duncan Nimmo Trust, Rai Bahadur Hazarimal Doodwalla and Colonel Gow himself, each as subscribing Rs. 1,000.

It may sound ambitious, but I hope not ungracious, if when inaugurating the project which we now have in hand I refer to what yet remains to be done in order completely to fulfil our present obligations and derive the full value from the work that is being undertaken. Even if the matter were considered only by itself, we have an obligation to the nurses who work in this hospital—an obligation to see that during their hours of rest they can live under conditions of reasonable privacy and comfort, the absence of which puts a totally unfair strain upon nurses who, while on duty, are subject to the most exacting demands upon their energy, their skill and their patience. The conditions under which the nurses of the Dufferin Hospital at present live are not such as are in fairness their due. They are crowded into a hostel intended to house only three quarters of the actual number. It is true that when the new hospital is built accommodation will be found to relieve the overcrowding, but this can only be done by using, for nurses, accommodation which otherwise would be free for patients. Moreover, a hospital such as this provides an unrivalled opportunity for the expert training in proper surroundings of a large number of Indian nurses intended for hospitals in all parts of the province, and so long as the accommodation for nurses is restricted, we shall be failing to take due advantage in the interests of the province as a whole of the opportunities here presented.

There is a scheme under consideration by the hospital authorities for the establishment of a separate building to form a nurses' hostel and school; it is intended to accommodate altogether as many as a hundred and to run a first class training school for Indian nurses. I hear that a donation of Rs. 2,500 towards such nurses' quarters has already been provided by the National Indian Association, who have also indicated that they hope to subscribe annually Rs. 600 for scholarships for the training of three nurses. Whether or not the whole scheme finally materialises, however, will depend on the generosity of the public of Bengal. For myself I should have a feeling of great regret if I knew that the wealth of medical knowledge which will be available from day to day in this hospital was not to be exploited to the full in the teaching and training of either students or nurses who would later use their knowledge and experience for the benefit of the province as a whole.

I feel I owe some apology for hinting at the possibility of a still further appeal when I have been invited merely to inaugurate the practical results of an appeal made less than two years ago; but I have done so as it may be the last occasion on which I shall be able publicly to refer to the great work of the Dufferin Fund in Bengal.

I shall now have much pleasure in proceeding to lay the foundation stone of the new Dufferin Hospital.

